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Dispatch	1,771,025	Era	277,450
Sunday Times	425,000	Britannia	105,508
Observer	322,000	National Bull	95,000
Examiner	241,525	Magnet	255,050
Bell's Weekly Messenger	622,000	Mark-lane Express	246,000
Spectator	146,500		
Total			4,517,058

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CONTENTS.	
LEADING ARTICLES:—	
The Stamp Returns	205
The Literary World: its Sayings and Doings	206
Authors and Books:—	
A Biography of Professor Wilson	207
The Talk of the Town	208
Night and the Soul	208
The Season	208
ENGLISH LITERATURE:—	
Biography:—	
Morley's Jerome Cardan	210
Philosophy:—	
Martin Tupper's Proverbial Philosophy	210
Science:—	
Encyclopedia Britannica	210
Andrew's Modern Husbandry	210
Notices of Small Books	210
History:—	
Gibbon's History of the Roman Empire	210
The War Books:—	
Roberts's Review of the Reign of Nicolas I.	210
Murray's National Songs and Legends of Romania	211
Col. Chesney's Russo-Turkish Campaigns	212
Fiction:—	
Atterton, and other Tales. By Mary Russell Mitford	212
The Heir of Vallis. By William Mathews	212
The Heiress of Somerton	212
Piera Lyndsay. By Mrs. Moodie	212
Murray's National Songs and Legends of Romania	213
Notices of Small Books	213
Poetry and the Drama:—	
The Castilian: an Historical Tragedy	213
Notices of Small Books	214
Miscellaneous:—	
Addison's Works	214
Hansom's Lost Prince	214
Notices of Small Books	214
Periodicals and Serials	214
FOREIGN LITERATURE, &c:—	
The Critic Abroad	215
Turkey:—	
Österreichisches Militär Zeitung	216
Reise nach Constantinopel	216
Italy:—	
From our Italian Correspondent	217
SCIENCE, ART, MUSIC, THE DRAMA, &c:—	
Science and Invention:—	
Summary	218
Art and Artists:—	
Society of British Artists	219
Talk of the Studios	219
Musical and Musicians:—	
Musical and Dramatic Chit-Chat	219
Gossip of the Literary Circles	220
Obituary	220
List of New Books	221
Advertisements	201, 202, 203, 204, 221, 222, 223, 224

THE CRITIC, London Literary Journal.

THE STAMP RETURNS.

ALTHOUGH we protest against the principle of publishing the returns of the stamps issued to the newspapers, as being a violation of the confidence impliedly reposed in the Government that it will not reveal information relating to the private affairs of the subject, obtained for the purpose of taxation; although asserting that Parliament has no more right to ask for a return of the sale of each newspaper, than of the incomes of individuals rated to the income-tax, or of the excise duties paid by each trader, we cannot but point with some pride to the evidence it has afforded of the very high position to which the CRITIC has attained. These returns, extending over three years, and called for after it had been generally understood that they would not be again granted, are above suspicion. No preparation could have been made for them, and therefore they may be deemed to exhibit with perfect accuracy the actual circulation of each of the journals included in them. Taking, then, the return for the last year (1853), the following is there shown to be the average issue of stamps for each number of the journals which are deemed an authority in the literary world.

Critic	5627
Examiner	4645
Athenæum	2827
Spectator	2817
Leader	2321
Literary Gazette	498

Thus it will be seen that the circulation of the CRITIC is very nearly double that of the *Athenæum*, just double that of the *Spectator*, more than double that of the *Leader*, and elevenfold that of the *Literary Gazette*. But the stamp return does not represent the whole circulation of the CRITIC, the *Athenæum*, and the *Literary Gazette*. Each of these literary journals has also an unstamped issue. But that is a privilege enjoyed equally by all the three, so that the relative circulations are unaffected by that addition.

Although, until the issue of these returns, we were unable to produce any positive proof of this foremost position of the CRITIC, it must have been discovered by advertisers, who have resorted in continually increasing numbers to its columns, and who appear to have found it in the practical results, for he who had once advertised here was sure to do so again and again. They who have hitherto doubted the fact of our great circulation may now satisfy themselves of it by reference to the official return.

THE LITERARY WORLD:

ITS SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THERE is little doing just now of a literary character. All eyes are turned to the Baltic and the Black Sea, and nothing but accounts of the war and the probable consequences which will result from it seem to have much chance of attracting attention.

The curious trial of "TOM PROVIS," alias Sir RICHARD SMYTH, has terminated by the sentence of transportation for twenty years. This personage was within the last few years a schoolmaster and public lecturer, and claimed to be a literary character; and on this account may without impropriety be alluded to here. His case is a strange one; he seems to have been so plausible in his manners, and to have so well connected his story, as to have deceived solicitors and barristers of eminence, and to have obtained from some of them not only gratuitous assistance in his cause, but the means also of living in some degree conformably to his pretended rank while the cause was proceeding. Yet his ignorance on many points was so remarkable that he considered orthography and syntax matters of opinion, and that in Latin, at all events, everybody had a right to spell as he liked! Yet he succeeded in gaining admission to the best circles in Bristol, Bath, Taunton, and other places in the West of England; and up to the time of his trial for forgery a considerable number of educated persons regarded him as the rightful owner of the title and estates of the late Sir HUGH PIGOT SMYTH.

The war is producing a very curious class of literature; pamphlets are continually making their appearance, in which the denunciations of prophecy are applied wholesale to the parties engaged. One is called "The Coming Struggle," and the author deliberately expresses his belief that the dragon, the beast, and the false prophet are respectively the Emperor of Austria, the Pope, and the Sultan; while the unclean spirits, like frogs, typify the power of France. Another pamphlet, "Gog and Magog," is decidedly of opinion that the dragon is the Emperor

Nicholas, the beast is Francis Joseph, and the false prophet is the Pope, observing that, as the beast derives his power from the dragon, and the Emperor of Austria from his brother of Russia, the Christian prophecy precisely fits the circumstances of the case. Besides this, the author contends that the Prince of Meshech and Tubal, mentioned in Ezekiel, is called in the original Rosh, Meshech and Tubal, or, in other words, Russia, Moscow, and Tobolsk! a species of nomenclature which seems a little like calling the sovereign of these realms Queen of England, Winchester, and Calcutta.

A trial has lately taken place of considerable interest to the literary as well as the scientific world. The facts of the case are as follows:—A gentlemanly person, named Lewis Bossy, brought a forged diploma from Edinburgh, and entered into partnership with a medical man in London; after a short time the partner retired, and the *soi-disant* Dr. Bossy carried on the practice in his own name. He had passed the examination at Apothecaries'-hall, had written a work of some merit on diarrhoea, and several gentlemen of high medical standing gave him an excellent character. These things were taken into consideration, and he was sentenced to two days' imprisonment. It is well known that there are universities on the Continent where degrees are a regular source of income. It was formerly so in Scotland; and Dr. JOHNSON was provoked to tell the authorities at St. Andrew's that they would get rich by degrees. In Scotland the practice has long been discontinued; but degrees are now imported from Germany. The prisoner, on the occasion just referred to, stated that he met with a person who asked him whether he would like the degree of M.D.; he said he should; and was thereupon told to write a book and pay 25*l.*, which he did, and received his diploma accordingly. Unhappily for the story, the diploma professed to be from Edinburgh, where proceedings of such a kind would be simply impossible. Yet we have seen advertisements informing "properly qualified persons" that the diploma of M.D. might be obtained at "moderate expense" from "a distinguished German university." Literary titles are obtained in the same way; and it would be a curious investigation, could we ask and obtain information how every Doctor of Philosophy or Doctor of Laws became entitled to such a distinction. We now frequently find pretenders to literature adding to their names the initials F.A.S., which the uninitiated imagine signify Fellow of the Antiquarian Society. They do, however, really signify nothing at all! There is no such society as an Antiquarian Society—the Society of Antiquarians entitles its Fellows to the letters F.S.A.; and consequently the F.A.S. may be taken with impunity. We have before us perhaps the most curious specimen of charlatanism that the world ever saw. Many years ago a young man whose occupation was that of a shoemaker, but who undoubtedly possessed considerable talent and information, made, by means of scissors and paste, a book on a certain branch of natural history; with this book he was more successful than he at first expected, and on the gain he made by it he subsisted for some time, during which he endeavoured to establish himself in some literary occupation. He sought admission into some of the learned societies; but, being unsuccessful in the attempt, he determined to establish a society of his own. He accordingly hired a room in an obscure locality, the name of which sounded better than the reality warranted, and announced the formation of the Royal Philosophical Society of the City of London. He elected on his council some twenty of the greatest names in modern science, trusting that either they would never see, or never notice, the liberty he had taken. In order to provide funds, he next addressed himself to the younger members of the Universities, first conferring on himself the degree of M.A. Oxford men supposed that he came from Cambridge, and Cambridge men referred him to Oxford; and, as his letters informed them that they were unanimously elected Fellows of the new society, and that they had nothing to pay save a fee of 10*s.* "for registration," he soon found the half-sovereigns flow in; and we have seen cases in which some of the men now most eminent in the literary and scientific world actually published themselves as members of this sham society. After a little time, a few persons were asked to lecture, or to send papers; and, some articles on scientific subjects having been obtained, a paragraph appeared next morning in some of the newspapers stating that a highly interesting memoir by —, on such a subject, was read before the members of the Royal Philosophical Society of the City of London. The founder had, in the mean time, obtained employment on one of the inferior papers as an occasional reporter, and as what is called a "penny-aliner;" and he now took to occasional preaching, and conferred on himself the title of Reverend. Finding that he might, under his new circumstances, add a little more to his income by selling a fresh batch of diplomas, he applied to the Government, stating that, as letters addressed to the Royal Society were received at the rooms of that learned body postage-free, as they were all supposed to be concerned with the interests of science, he hoped that letters to and from the Royal Philosophical Society of the City of London might have the same privilege. Strange to say, his modest request was granted; and, though very speedily

revoked, it yet lasted long enough to enable him to gather in a plentiful crop of half-sovereigns. Just before this, he had found out the name of an Irish nobleman attached to science, and rarely visiting England; a well-imagined letter to the noble Earl made him, by his own consent, President of the Society, and obtained from him both a donation in money and an account of some antiquities dug out of a bog on his Lordship's estate. Animated by these successes, our hero proceeded to the degree of LL.D., and joined, without going through the ridiculous ceremony of election, the Royal Society! The time was now come when he rightly believed that some public testimonial was due to so distinguished an individual as himself, and he therefore set on foot a subscription for a service of plate. The amount with which the subscription list began was very satisfactory; but, alas! the names were fictitious, and the sums shadowy. Some twenty or thirty pounds were however collected in small sums, from those in the country who had been deluded into paying "ten shillings for registration;" but, as some of these persons evinced a desire to be present when the service of plate was presented, it was necessary to get the presentation over without loss of time, lest they should come up to London and make troublesome inquiries. So a tavern was invented, a dinner improvised on paper, a few neat and appropriate speeches alluded to, and the founder of the society, now a Professor (of what, and in what University, was not stated) returned thanks to his distinguished friends. Soon after this misfortune overtook him, he was arrested and punished for sending begging letters, and betook himself once more to the pulpit, tacking to the clerical the medical profession likewise. We have seen a placard, announcing a sermon (to be followed by a collection) by the Rev. Professor —, LL.D., F.R.S., Surgeon and Accoucheur! The history of this man, if he could be prevailed upon to write it, would, no doubt, be worth reading.

Burlington-house has been purchased by the Government. It is not yet known what is to be done with it; but there are many ways in which it might be employed to great advantage. We want much such a building as the Palace of the Institute at Paris. The portions of Somerset-house used for scientific and antiquarian purposes are too small and too few; we want a new Record Office, to collect together all the documents now scattered in the Tower, Carlton-ride, the Rolls-office, and elsewhere; there are many other purposes to which it might be turned for the common benefit. There is no city labouring under so remarkable a want of room as London.

Manchester is setting the example of statues to literary and scientific men; but, if this plan be followed—as we hope it will—any one who can show how to obtain a good statue at a small price, will be useful in his day and generation. All our older statues are understood to be of bronze, a very expensive material; but lately some one has suggested, as a novelty, the employment of lead—zinc, too, has been mentioned. But it has been recently discovered that the statue of George II., which occupied the centre of Leicester-square before Mr. WILD occupied it with his great globe, was of lead, hollow, and filled with clay. Both pedestal and statue were said to be considerably damaged, and have now been carted away as rubbish. There may be a hint to be gathered here. If the statue had been a good one as to design, it might have been recast—a little more lead would have been required, a new pedestal, and, at a very small expense it might have insured another century of existence. A statue of little merit, in bad condition, and of an uninteresting person, need not be regretted; but there appears the means, thus tested by the wear and tear of a century, of multiplying statues of men whose "corporeal presentment" the world would not willingly forget.

The death of the Rector of Exeter College, Oxford, called forth a considerable number of candidates; but among them was one whose name would hardly have been expected in such a list—that of Mr. Justice COLERIDGE. With any disappointment of a good and able man we should readily sympathise; but we cannot help rejoicing that the services of this distinguished judge are not lost to the country. On the bench all the higher and nobler parts of his character are brought out; and among a body which has had few to bring discredit upon it, Mr. Justice COLERIDGE has ever maintained a respected and conspicuous place. As it would have been necessary that he should, in case of succeeding to the late Dr. RICHARDS, have taken holy orders—a step he was, it is said, quite prepared to take—the country would have lost much, and Oxford would have gained little. The resignation of a judge who has the confidence equally of the bar and the public, would be a misfortune. We have few judges, we hope none in England, like the Hon. Judge ANTHONY of Newcastle, Henry County, Indiana, to whom all the bar presented a petition that he would resign, assuring him that, though they respected him greatly as a gentleman and *tavern-keeper*! they considered him totally disqualified for the office of Judge.

The question of University Reform is in one respect of universal interest to the Literary World; and while we shall say nothing on that part of the question which simply concerns the Universities as such, we shall take the opportunity of making a few observations on

the connection of College Fellowships with the Literary World. Of the three elder Universities, Dublin has been sometimes called "the silent sister," from the comparatively small number of men emanating from it who have distinguished themselves beyond the walls of the college. This fact has been generally accounted for by the small chances which were presented to the student; the Fellowships were large in value, but tenable after marriage, so that vacancies rarely occurred; and, as the supply and the demand will always be found regulated one by another, so there were comparatively few who sought them. In our own universities, on the other hand, marriage, or preference to a certain amount, vacated the Fellowship *ipso facto*, and thus there were a continual series of vacancies, and, of course, a continual series of qualified applicants. The use of a Fellowship was understood to be twofold: as a stimulus to industry; and secondly, as a provision till the successful student could be provided for in some professional career. This system worked well. At Oxford, indeed, the Fellowships were too restricted to be really rewards of merit; but all that was wanted was to make them open. Among the changes now proposed, one is to require residence, so that unless a Fellow take a part in the business of the college, or apply himself to tuition, he is a mere scholastic idler, and is not advancing his interests in the world at all. This clause will not, it is to be hoped, be insisted upon; it would, by its too great stringency, defeat the very object for which Fellowships have been long supposed to be established, and which, if not exactly the object of their establishment, is at least that to which they may most advantageously be applied.

Literary men as well as politicians will be sorry to learn the removal of the Chevalier BUNSEN from the office of Prussian minister at the English court. The Chevalier had so long been connected with this country, had made himself so deeply acquainted with our language, literature, and science, that he may be said to have been of us, as well as among us; some of his best works are written in the English language; and it may be said more truly of him than of most students, "*nihil tetigit quod non ornavit*." At any period the removal of such a man would be a matter of regret, and now more especially, when it is clearly the consequence of political intrigues at the court of Prussia, unworthy in themselves, and arising from parties openly and avowedly hostile to this country.

The new Reform Bill, with its promises of advance in the cause of literary franchise, is at present shelved. Without entering into its political character, we may be permitted to express our regret that the ambition of one man should be allowed to stop a question of social progress in a land where he is not the ruler, and over whose destinies, according to all human probability, he neither has, nor ever will have, any power. It is unquestionably a matter of no credit to us that property alone is represented in our Parliament; and any steps towards the removal of such a blot would be hailed, even by those who wish to restrict rather than to enlarge the basis of our representation. The question, however, will not be allowed to drop.

It appears that the plan for the establishment of a Professorship of English History and Archaeology in King's College has failed, and, we understand, from causes not very creditable to the obstructive parties. We shall probably hear of the revival of the plan in some other direction before long, and shall then be able to lay before our readers such portions of the design as were in our view the most important and interesting. The *Courier*, which has been revived lately as an organ of Church reform, is no longer to appear as a weekly newspaper, but, following the example of this journal, on the first and fifteenth of every month. If well and temperately managed, this publication may effect great good; but we cannot consider that the plan of reform to which its conductors have pledged themselves is in all respects favourable to literary excellence among the clergy—for instance, we should be sorry to see canonries abolished, considering, as we do, that they ought to be preserved for those whose abilities and literary attainments make them more important aids to the church in the study than in the parish.

There seems to be quite a mania for exhibitions just now. The schoolmasters have caught the fever, and are about to open a permanent show of rulers, slates, and copybooks, diagrams, models, and apparatus; this is intended to assist teachers in the pursuits of their profession. It may be so, and we are willing to believe that some good will come from it, seeing that it is patronised by educational institutions, schools, and authors, and is, moreover, spoken well of by the *Morning Chronicle*; but, in spite of all this, we cannot see much utility in it.

There is some hope that our Eastern warfare will not be unproductive of some results to the world of letters. It is quite true that we begin with only one photographer; but the military authorities give good reasons for not incurring themselves with more scientific and literary followers at first. They say, and with apparent reason, that at first, and while a way is being cleared into the country, botanists, zoologists, and antiquarians would run great risk, and do little service; but that, as soon as things shall be "made pleasant," and the Russians "cooked," they will gladly have more scientific and

literary men with them. A marine painter might be sent out at once; astronomers and mathematicians we have in our fleet; and the rest could follow in due time. We have an opportunity of doing now what the French did in Egypt, and of making the Russians pay for it. Sir CHARLES FELLOWS has shown what a ground there is to go over in Asia Minor. Thrace and Macedonia are hardly inferior in interest, and will soon be in our hands.

The principal death in the literary world since our last number, has been that of Professor WILSON, bodily and mentally one of the most remarkable men of his time. He has left scarcely a representative behind him of that class of which he was so long the leader and ornament. It was not so much as a poet as a rhetorician that WILSON's triumphs were achieved, and his fiery politics made him far more an object of mark than all his genius.

The maps and plans of the Royal Geographical Society are likely to be thrown open to the public. Government has offered the society 500*l.* per annum to do this; and, as soon as well-situated, and sufficiently spacious premises can be found for the purpose, the offer will be closed with. The Geographical Society stands in proud relief among the other chartered bodies of the metropolis, by the spirit and energy which have distinguished its proceedings. It has expended its funds in actual discoveries and surveys, and has done much to increase the interest as well as the extent of geographical knowledge among us.

AUTHORS AND BOOKS.

A BIOGRAPHY OF PROFESSOR WILSON.

SCARCE had the literary world recovered from the shock with which it heard of Talfourd's translation—for it seemed in its circumstances, and from the last words of the brave and true-hearted man, to resemble the case of one suddenly "called up"—than it has received another severe, although long-expected blow in the departure of Christopher North. In a life of Cowper we recently indited, we began by remarking that the words "the life of William Cowper" seemed a misnomer, so miserable and forlorn had his existence been; and now, on the contrary, the words, "the death of Professor Wilson" seem a paradox as profound, so full was he of the riotous and overflowing riches of bodily and of mental being. "Die? How could such a man die?" is an expression which would have arisen to the lips of all who had ever seen him in the pride of his magnificent personality, walking along Princes-street, or prelecting to his students, were it not for the universal knowledge that for some years back his tabernacle had been crumbling down—his strong man bowing beneath him; and that latterly his mind too had become weak, or weaker than that of other men.

We propose to write a short biography, succeeded by a rapid critical sketch of this extraordinary man—a man to whom we entertained feelings not only of profound artistic admiration, but of almost filial affection.

We may premise that in the following life we pretend to do nothing but state a few facts concerning him, which are generally known. His full story must be told by others; if, indeed, it shall ever be fully told at all.

John Wilson was born in Paisley, in the year 1785. We once heard a sapient baillie, in a speech at a philosophical *soirée* in Edinburgh, call him "a native of the Modern Athens"—a statement which was received with cheers, instead of, as it deserved, with roars of scornful laughter. No! we thought, "Wilson is a Paisley body, with a universal soul." In Paisley they still show the house where he first saw light, and are justly proud of the chief among their many native poets. No town in the west of Scotland, in proportion to its size, has produced more distinguished men than Paisley. Tannahill, Alexander Wilson, author of "Watty and Meg," and the subject of this memoir, are only a few of its poetic sons. Motherwell, too, although born in Glasgow, spent his boyhood and youth chiefly in Paisley. Wilson's father was a wealthy manufacturer in the town. His mother was a woman of great good sense and piety, and he imbibed from her a deep sense of religion. Paisley is a dull town in itself, but is surrounded by many points of interest. Near it is the hole in the canal where poor Tannahill drowned himself. Farther off are the braes of Gleniffer, commemorated in one of the same poet's songs. The river Cart runs through the town, after passing through some romantic mairlands. Mearns Muir is not far away—a muir sprinkled with lochs, which Wilson has often described in his articles in *Blackwood*, and on the remoter outskirts of

which stands the farm-house where Pollock was born, and whence he saw daily the view he so picturesquely reproduces in his "Course of Time."—

Scotland's northern battlement of hills.

All these were early and favourite haunts of Wilson, who appears to have been what is called in Scotland a "roid" boy (*Anglicè*, roysterer), fond of nutting, cat-shooting, fishing, and apple-robbing expeditions—the head of his class in the school, and the leader in every mischief and trick when out of it. At an early age he was sent to the Highlands, to the care of Dr. Joseph McIntyre, of Glenorchy, an eminent clergyman of the Church of Scotland, who, besides many multifarious labours as a minister and farmer, contrived to find time to teach a select number of boys. Our worthy father was well acquainted with, and told us many curious anecdotes about him. He was a pious, laborious, intelligent, and at the same time a shrewd, knowing, somewhat close-fisted old *carle*. His constant saying at meal times to his boarders was, "Now, my lads, he that sups most broth gets most beef," the consequence of which was, that the little fellows devoured so much *kale*, that they had neither inclination nor room for the *kitchen* (i. e. the flesh meat). This the old fox had of course foreseen. Wilson, too, made us once laugh heartily by describing the small modicum of whisky which, on great occasions, old Joseph used, from a certain blue bottle, to decant for his scholars. They took to each other, however, amazingly. Wilson, the wild gifted boy, spent all his holidays in rambling among the black mountains which surround the head of Loch Lomond, sailing on the lake, conversing with the shepherds, and picking up local traditions, which, on his return to the manse, he used to repeat to the Dr., with such eloquence and enthusiasm, that the old man—his eyes now filled with tears, and now swimming with laughter—said, again and again, "My man, you should write story-books." Wilson told us that this advice rang in his ears, till it set him to writing the "Lights and Shadows of Scottish Life." So let us honour the memory of the good old Oberlin of Glenorchy, whenever we read those immortal sketches! McIntyre also, who, though an eccentric and pawky, was a truly good man, did, we believe, not a little to rivet on the poet's mind the religious advices and instructions of his mother.

From the school at Glenorchy he was sent to the University of Glasgow, which then mustered a very admirable staff of professors, as well as a noble young race of rising students. There was Richardson, Professor of Latin, a highly accomplished scholar and elegant writer, but whose works, which were chiefly critical, wanted the vital sap of genius, and are now totally forgotten. There was Jardine, Professor of Logic, a man of great industry, method, and communicative gifts—in fact, as Lord Jeffrey and many other of his eminent pupils confessed, one of the best teachers that ever lived. There was Miller, the eminent writer on law; and there was Young, of the Greek chair, a man of burning enthusiasm, as well as of vast erudition, whose readings and comments upon Homer used to make his students thrill and weep by turns. Our readers will find a glowing picture of him in Lockhart's "Peter's Letters." The prelections of these men must have tended mightily to develop the mind of Wilson. He was benefited, too, by intimacy with many distinguished contemporary students. There was—a little later in the classes, but still contemporaneous—Lockhart, afterwards his associate in many a fair and many a foul-foughten field of letters. There was Michael Scott, author of "Tom Cringle's Log," who became a West Indian merchant, but returned to his native city, Glasgow, and wrote those striking naval narratives, under an assumed name, in *Blackwood*, till some little allusions in one of the chapters betrayed the secret to Wilson, who cried out "Aut Michael aut Diabolus!"—his old college companion standing detected. There was a man, since well known in Scotland, and assuredly a person of very rare gifts of natural eloquence and humour—Dr. John Ritchie, late of Potterrow, Edinburgh—who used to contend with Wilson at leaping, football, and other athletic exercises, at which both were masters, and nearly matched. And there was Thomas Campbell, with whom young Kit North, it is said, went out once during a college holiday-week to Campsie Glen, in the neighbourhood of Glasgow—it was during a snow-storm—and spent a whole day in piling up

a great snow man, with head, face, form, all modelled on the antique ideal; and then spent another day in remodelling and finally taking it down.

He was distinguished, we believe, at college, as he had been at school, by irregular diligence, and by frequent fits of idleness, by expertness when he pleased at his studies, and by expertness at all times in games, frolics, and queer adventures. From Glasgow he was sent to Magdalene College, Oxford, and there his character retained and deepened all its peculiar traits. He now read, and now dissipated hard, as most Oxford students of that day did. He took several college honours; and was the first boxer, leaper, cockfighter, and runner among the students. He gained the Newdegate prize for poetry, and became a radical in politics so flaming, that he would not allow a servant to black his shoes, but might be seen—the yellow-haired glorious savage—of a morning, performing that interesting operation himself! He was contemporary with De Quincey, but they never met—at least wittingly; although we imagine the little bashful scholar must have occasionally seen and rather shrunk from the tall Athlete, rushing like a tempest, on to the yards, or parading under the arches of that old mediæval university.

At Oxford, Wilson became acquainted with Wordsworth's poetry. It made a deep and permanent impression on his mind, and determined his bias toward subjective poetry, instead of objective, materially, as we think, to his disadvantage. Wilson was by nature fitted to be, as a poet, a great union of the objective and subjective; but the influence of Wordsworth, counteracted only in part by that of Scott, made the subjective predominate unduly in his verse; and he who might have been almost a Shakspeare, had he followed his native tendency, became in poetry only a secondary member of the Lake school.

When he left Oxford he betook himself to the Lake country, where his father had purchased the estate of Elleray, situated upon the beautiful shores of Windermere, and there became speedily intimate with Wordsworth, Southey, Coleridge, and De Quincey. This last describes him as then a tall, fresh, fine-looking youth, dressed like a sailor, and full of frankness, eccentricity, and fire. He was at that time vibrating between various schemes of life, all more or less singular. He was now projecting a journey to the interior of Africa—for he had always a strong love for travel—and now determining to be for life a writer of poetry. He contributed some fine letters to Coleridge's *Friend*, under the signature of Mathetes. From this gifted man, however, he became estranged. Wordsworth's overbearing dogmatism too, was rather too much for Wilson. Yet he continued to admire both these Lake Demiurgi, and became the most eloquent interpreter to the public. At this time he was noted, it is said, by his power of punning. It is reported that he one day wagered with one or other of the Lakers that he would carry on a running fire of puns for some successive hours, and gained the bet.

While at Elleray, but considerably later than this, he met and married his amiable wife. Many strange stories are afloat about this courtship; but we were assured lately on his own authority that they were a "pack of lies." And so too, we believe, are many of the rumours about his early dissipations, his spending some months in a camp of gipsies, &c. His life at this period was certainly a very romantic one, but not immorally romantic. He was always—gipsy or no gipsy, waiter or no waiter—the gentleman and the genius, and the kind-hearted compassionate man. His first poem was the "Isle of Palms," which was welcomed as a very promising slip of the Lake poetic tree, and criticised with considerable favour in the *Edinburgh Review*, and in a style which showed a desire on Jeffrey's part to wear him from his favourite school of "pond poets." In 1814 he came to Edinburgh, and was called nominally to the bar. We are not certain however, if he ever had a single brief or pled a single case. What an apparition among the lawyers of that day, who, according to Carlyle, "believed in nothing in earth, heaven, hell, or under the earth," must have been this wild-eyed and broad-shouldered enthusiast, with his long flowing bison-like locks! In 1817, *Blackwood's Magazine* was started, and shortly after Wilson, who was now dividing his time between Edinburgh and Elleray, was added to its staff, and began that immortal series of contributions—grave and gay—satiric and serious—mad and wise—non-

sensical and profound—fierce and genial—which were destined to irradiate or torment its pages for fully a quarter of a century. Lockhart became his principal coadjutor, and they both set themselves to write up Toryism—to write down the *Edinburgh Review*—to castigate the Cockney school—and to illustrate the manners and maintain the name among the nations of the earth of "dear auld Scotland." The success of *Blackwood* was not, as is often now said, instantaneous and dazzling; it was slow and interrupted—it had to struggle against great opposition, and many prejudices; *Blackwood's Magazine* was its sobriquet for many a long year; and not till Lockhart and Maginn had left it for England, did the kindlier and better management of Wilson give it that high standing, which, under the coarse and clumsy paws of his son-in-law, it is again rapidly losing.

Between the starting of *Blackwood* and Wilson's election to the Moral Philosophy chair, we remember nothing very special in his history, except his writing his first and only paper in the *Edinburgh Review* (it was on the fourth canto of "Childe Harold," and was greatly admired at the time for its eloquence and splendour of language), and the appearance of the "City of the Plague." Great things were expected from this poem. Queer stories were told of the manner in which it was composed. (It was said that the author had shut himself up in a private room, and allowed his hair and nails and beard to grow to almost a Nebuchadnezzarian longitude, till it was written.) Yet it rather disappointed the public. It had beautiful passages, but, as a whole, was tedious. The objective and the subjective in it were not well harmonised. It aspired to be both a great poem and a great drama, and was neither. His Demon of the Plague was, on the whole, a dull devil. Two or three sentences of it are still remembered, but the poem has itself gone down—or, rather, it never rose.

Galled at this reception, the author mentally resolved to publish no more separate poems; and he kept his word. In 1820, Dr. Thomas Brown, Professor of Moral Philosophy, died; and Wilson was urged by his friends—especially by Sir Walter Scott—to stand as a candidate for the vacant chair. It was desirable, they thought, that that should be filled by one who was a Conservative (Wilson had long ago renounced his Radicalism, and was now busy blackening, not his own shoes, but the characters of poor Hazlitt and Hunt), and had genius and mettle besides. It was thought good, too, that such a man should now have a settled position in the community. His pretensions were fiercely opposed. When a boy, we read a long file of old *Scotsmen* dated 1820, and assure our readers that they could scarce credit the terms in which Wilson was then assailed. He was accused of blasphemy, of writing indecent parodies of the Psalms, of being a turncoat, of having no original genius, of having written a bad bombastic paper in the *Edinburgh Review*, &c. The fact was, party-spirit, fomented by the Queen's case, was then running mountains high in Scotland. Wilson, besides, was as yet very little known. His poetry was not popular; his powers as a periodical writer were yet in blossom, and only his early eccentricities seemed to mark him out from the roll of common men. His opponent, Sir William Hamilton, too, it was known, had devoted immense talent and research to the study of moral and mental science; while Wilson, it was shrewdly suspected, required to cram himself for the office. Through dint of party influence, however, he was elected; and certainly none of the numerous clan of *Johnsons* has ever done more to redeem the character of the tribe. He cast a lustre even upon the mean and rotten ladder on which he rose.

Scott had told Wilson that, when elected to the chair, he must "forswear sack, purge, and live cleanly like a gentleman" (see Scott's letters.) And on this hint Wilson proceeded to act. He commenced to prepare his lectures with great care; he wrote less in *Blackwood*; and his success in the chair was such as to abash his adversaries and to delight his friends. He became the darling of his students; and the publication of his "Lights and Shadows" and "The Trials of Margaret Lindsay" contributed to raise his reputation, not only as a writer, but as a man, although they seemed to his adversaries to be produced as self-signed certificates of his Christianity.

(To be continued.)

THE TALK OF THE TOWN:

BY A LOUNGER IN THE LITERARY CIRCLES.

SOME people may be as tired as they please of hearing the praises of Aristides Dickens; but the fact remains that he is still the most popular writer in the world, inasmuch as the English has more readers than any other European literature, and story-telling more than any other department of it. There may, indeed, be some Chinese author of *Pickwick* and *Chuzzlewits*, with a larger audience. *Hard Times* (which would be thought a very grim title, but that we recollect that *Black House* turned out to be a pleasant and comfortable residence) is amusing and very *Dickensish* in its opening chapters, and the style, though not a fit model for any one else, exhibits his usual unrivalled neatness. I don't think this has made anything like the sensation that the promise and appearance of former stories did; yet the sudden jump in the sale of *Household Words*, in which it is coming out, furnishes agreeable evidence of the author's continued popularity. Long life to him who has given pleasure to so many firesides, and carried a thousand phases of London into the imagination and sympathy of countless minds in all parts of the globe! a wish, we may congratulate ourselves, not unlikely of fulfilment in Mr. Dickens's healthy and active frame, in which he takes care to preserve the balance of mental and bodily exercise, by a long walk every day through London, or towards the clear uplands of Hampstead, after the busiest and most punctual of pens has done its appointed task.

Paris streets are full of songs against the Czar, each of which, by a system which appears to us extremely odd, has obtained the sanction of the Minister of the Interior, and bears the stamp of his office. The French are always either over-governed or under-governed; and another example of the over-governing at present in fashion is supplied by the complaint of a correspondent of one of the London morning papers as to the obstructions he meets with in transmitting messages through the electric telegraph; that also being "given in charge" to the police authorities. Some excitement was caused in the said excitable capital by hints of a forthcoming pamphlet, called *Revision de la Carte de l'Europe*, written, some said by the Emperor of the French, others by the Emperor of all the Russias. Copies of it were sent to two leading newspapers, with authority for publication; but after the thing was in type down came police orders No. 2, imperatively stopping, suppressing, and, as far as possible, annihilating the *Revision*. But a copy escaped; and the wonderful production may now be had of Mr. Jeffs, a London publisher, for any man's shilling, and will be found not particularly interesting after all. May not the whole story have been merely a puff preliminary?

America has not of late brought much into the literary market; but we hear rumours of a great success attending a new story called *The Lamplighter*, and shall soon have an opportunity of making its acquaintance in a cheap English dress. *Après* of which, there is again a rumour that that most desirable arrangement, of a mutual copyright between England and America may possibly be adjusted before very long; but, before that occurs, there is little doubt the decision of the House of Lords will finally annul the force of all American copyrights in this country;—in anticipation of which, Messrs. Chapman and Hall are preparing a cheap edition of Hawthorne's *Blithedale Romance*; and their example will probably be followed by others who hold the like insecure kind of property.

Of English novels we must, it seems, be content this season with a much scantier crop than usual—many of those announced having been withdrawn to bide a time when the newspapers, it is hoped, shall again become less exciting than daily intelligence of WAR—which will soon be consuming Russia, like the spendthrift's candle, at both ends—now makes them. Yet Miss Mitford ventures to put forth her new leaves in the midst of this frosty season for novelists; and the poets are even stirred into an unusual activity. One publishing house (Messrs. J. W. Parker and Son), who have just given to the public Mr. Frederick Tennyson's Poems and the Poetical Remains of Præd, will shortly, we believe, present us with a volume of new poetry from the pen of the Rev. CHARLES KINGSLEY, which we hope will consist rather of many short pieces than two or three long ones, remembering the touching and picturesque ballad of "Call the cattle home," in his novel of *Alton Locke*.

Whatever may be the effect of the war upon literature or commerce at this moment, it is not to be doubted that we have yet to learn and feel, in all its awful reality, the nature of the deadly conflict whereupon our nation has entered, although (as we trust in God will be the case) it may never reach our own happy shores, except in the shape of news. Sublime is the plain, unhesitating confidence of all Englishmen in the perfect invincibility of the national flag, and any one would be looked upon as a lunatic who felt alarmed at the contemplation of the possibility of the Russian Baltic fleet getting the better of the English, sailing down to the Thames, and bombarding London. Yet the "fortune of war" is not in any case to be predicated with certainty—for which see ancient and modern history, *passim*; and the event hinted at

is unquestionably on the cards—though, at the same time, rather unlikely. On the eve of the great crisis in European affairs now probably impending, such a portent in the heavens is not wanting, as would have filled every eye and mouth with astonishment and terror some few centuries ago—we mean the gold-coloured comet lately, if not still, visible in the west after sunset. The threats of cholera and of the Czar may be enough in connection with this long-tailed luminary, to alarm even some of the natives of this intelligent Nineteenth Century, which, it must be remembered, supplies a large body of readers to Zadkiel and his brother sages, and of adherents to spirit-rapping—whereof, by-the-by, the last news we hear is that it has become naturalised in the capital of Persia, and no doubt forms the leading subject of Teheran gossip. As to the comet, it certainly has a fair chance to regain some of its old ill-reputation, as a power that

From its horrid hair
Shakes pestilence and war; with fear of change
Perplexing monarchs.

If this is to be a season of losses, the world of letters has received the first outpourings of the storm; the death of the amiable and accomplished Talfourd having been so soon followed by that of the great, warm, rollicking, imaginative, glorious John Wilson, the poet of the *Isle of Palms*, the Professor of Edinburgh University, and the "Kit North" of *Blackwood's Magazine* and of everybody! With what glowing delight used my boyhood to revel in the *Noctes*, the papers on *Sotieby's Homer*, the flagellations of *Atherstone* and others, and many more of the fiery eruptions from that volcano, raising its head out of vineyards into blue sky! A wilful man and a stubborn was Wilson; but of so strong and genial a temperament as carried him triumphantly over a thousand mistakes and absurdities. He was like a personal friend to his readers; and many, many hearts will keep his memory warm.

Meanwhile, omens or no omens, London, as the way is, goes on pursuing her toils and amusements; and, in her musical circles, debates the condition of Tamberlik's voice and Ronconi's this season, and the merits of Madame Marai, the soprano who made her English debut on the opening night of the Royal Italian Opera House—now without a competitor. Well, both the gentlemen are in the full vigour of their powers; and the lady, who has light ringlets, light complexion, and a light voice, sings in a thin, ornamental way, *à la Persiani*, and has neither succeeded nor failed. The house on the opening night was full; the orchestra powerful; the opera (*Guillemo Tell*), as a whole, very effective; and the way in which the vast audience received the singing of "God save the Queen," especially in the lines

Scatter her enemies,
And make them fall!

was very inspiring—hands and handkerchiefs waved and voices shouted in an enthusiastic fit of patriotism; and there was moreover a bit of piquancy in the fact, to those who knew it, that Madame Marai, who sung most of the solos, was come direct from the Czar's Theatre at St. Petersburg. While talking of matters theatrical, it may be noted that Madlle. Rachel has just returned to Paris from Russia; and that Miss Cushman is on the point of taking leave of our own capital, after performing an engagement at the Haymarket in which she confirmed (but did not deepen) the impression she made some years ago upon the British public, as an actress of remarkable *physique*, great intelligence, and striking energy, which however was often harsh, and of a kind chiefly suitable for melodrama. At old Drury, Master Brooke, after aggravating his voice until it became like that of a sucking dove, through pure hoarseness, was succeeded by a troop (or *troupe*, if you like) of Chinese jugglers, whose chief feat consists in going as near as possible to manslaughter, without actually effecting it, by darting large knives into a board against which one of their number stands upright; in which performance, contrary to the general rule, every miss is a *hit*, and applauded accordingly.

Turn we to the world of Art. Those who have sent in paintings to the Royal Academy are now passing feverous days and nights, until the "varnishing day" shall admit them to know their fate—whether their dearly beloved work, the child of their care and ambition, be—hung! and, if so, whether above or below "the line," or in the very region of that golden mean, that happy equatorial. But no such doubts and fears trouble the R.A.'s, sitting serenely in their high place "like gods together," and Macleise's English-history picture, which is about the size (not to exaggerate) of the area of Lincoln's-inn-fields, is sure of five acres of the best wall in the rooms. Mr. Millais, too, having now, in spite of the obnoxious initials, P. R. B., obtained the orthodox dignity of those others, A. R. A., may hope in future to find himself always set in a good light: yet this year, to the regret of his admirers, he has resolved to set himself in no light at all—he will not exhibit; and the fruits of his autumn in the Highlands, including the portrait of Mr. Ruskin, with a Waterfall in the background, or portrait of a Waterfall, with Mr. Ruskin in the foreground, are doomed to rest in the shade for another year. Mr. Holman Hunt, however, who is now among the "hot sands of hoary Nile," striving to fix upon his canvass the glow of

Egyptian suns, will amply support the credit of the Pre-Raphaelite school in the approaching Royal Academy Exhibition. The subject of one of his pictures is He who is called "the Light of the World;" while another presents a modern scene—a degraded woman moved to tears by the sound of music. Among the sculpture, Mr. Alexander Munro will have several beautiful works, in addition to his Peel statue. Apropos of this, it may be mentioned that the Wellington Committee connected with the corporation of London met the other day at Guildhall to choose one of six models for the intended monument of the man whom, living and dead, England delights to honour, and selected that of Mr. Bell. The ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer has been presiding at the thirty-ninth Anniversary Dinner of the Artists' General Benevolent Institution, held at Freemasons' Hall on Saturday last, and in his speech alluded to the fact that the middle classes of the present day are our most munificent patrons of the fine arts. It appears that sixty-five cases of distress were relieved in the past year; and the list of donations and subscriptions read on the present occasion amounted to 2392*l.*, of which 1870*l.* was a legacy from the late J. R. Durrant, Esq.

Let us note here, at the end of this gos-sip, two or three items, such as the now definite and soon to be fulfilled promise of a new Reading-room, in the quadrangle of the British Museum; and the loss, by a majority of only three, of Mr. Ewart's Public Library and Museum Bill, in consequence of his attempt to confer the taxing power upon the town councils, instead of the ratepayers. It is a pity that subordinate points like this should be allowed to check the progress of a movement so sound in principle and so excellent in tendency.

Have you ever heard of JASMIN, the barber-poet of Languedoc? No doubt you have, and take much interest in him; and you will, therefore, think it worth while to hear that he has just returned home after a triumphal tour, in the course of which he was introduced to the court at St. Cloud, and drew tears, they say, from the Emperor and Empress by his improvisation.

Finally, when speaking of our own poets, mention should not have been omitted of "R. Sheridan Ward-lay, M.B., M.R.C.S.," who advertises "The Sisters of Charity," "dedicated to the Most Holy Order of Cistercian Brothers," and who is not only, as above, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, but "Poet Laureate to his most gracious Majesty William the Second, King of the Netherlands." It but remains to be added (as comprising the whole remainder of our information on the subject) that the work thus heralded is published at "Goose-gate, Nottingham," the price twopence—facts to which we hereby give the benefit of our circulation, gratis.

NIGHT AND THE SOUL.

BY J. STANYAN BIGG.

(Continued from page 10.)

Philosophy! philosophy! deep fool!
Thou most profound of all inanities—
Great bankrupt—soul-declining fiend!—Ah, why
Hast thou thus robb'd me of my early years,
Fringing the pathway of despair with flowers,
Strewing thy hollow reeds across the gulph,
Robbing corruption in a cloth of gold,
And painting the pale cheeks of pain with bloom?
Why didst thou conjure up thy phantom forms,
Thy false and fair appearances of truth,
Wrapping me in an atmosphere of light,
But to delude me with thy empty vanities,
And then, when I had come to worship thee,
Veil thyself o'er in shadows, and depart,
Leaving me on a narrow neck of land—
The black and roaring waters at my feet,
And the eternal thunders o'er my head—
The puppet of the monitory stars,
The butt of nature, and the fool of time,
That sapient idiot—a philosopher!
Thus has it ever been with all who thought;
With those who strove to battle with the soul,
And wring from it the secret talisman
That should unfold to view the under-world
Of causes and occult relationships,
And show things as they are within themselves,
And not as they appear to vulgar eyes.
All earnest spirits have gone down to death
With a terrific curse upon their lips,
An imprecation on thy broken vows—
Thou mist-brow'd sophist, thou expiring lie!
Is not thy mighty roll of names a cheat—
A miserable record of the pranks
A certain pale flame play'd upon a marsh
Where all the mighty of the earth were swamp'd?
Are not the great names of thy progeny
Mournful as dates upon a coffin-lid?
Most mighty ships, but stranded into wrecks;
Bright hopes, but dissipated like the mists;
Sweet dreams, but gone, like last year's midnight tolls,
Pass'd off into the breath of bygone winds;—
Thy Plato, Zeno, and thy Socrates,
Thy sceptics, cynics, s-plists, and the host
Of sects that parcel'd out the ancient world—
What were they, but gigantic arms outstretch'd
To clasp a melting cloud—a puff of air?—
Those lofty ones, that panted for the truth,
And question'd all things; waiting, in a hush,
For those responses that were never heard;
Gazing, with earnest eyes, towards thy fane
For aboriginal and primal facts,
And all the raw materials out of which
The texture of the universe was spun:

Not satisfied with picking up loose pearls,
Which science threadeth on her length'ning string;
But plunging into the remorseless sea,
And groping in her halls for hoards at once;
Asking of all her echoless profound
How they were fashion'd forth, and whence they came.
Alas! they found the soul broad as a sun
In questionings, but puny in result!
High springing pinnacles glance up at heaven,
With narrow dormitories fit for dolls;—
A palace guesteth nothing but a mouse;
And one poor minnow wags his tail alone
In a wide-spreading lake that might reveal
The huge proportions of the rounded hills,
And bosom Night herself with all her stars!
They found that we are so enwrap'd in self,
That the whole world is but its duplicate—
That the soul seeth nothing but the soul,
And that things are to it but what they seem;
That we know nothing of the outer world
But what the inner world estamps
With her own seal, and moulds unto herself;
That certitude is unattainable,
And self is the beginning and the end,
The Alpha and Omega, and the all;—
That the soul flings her image on the rim
And outer-edge of all things; and looks out
Through her sense-windows on herself—no more!
[Another pause.]

No sight so sad on all the sands of time
As the deep footprints of these mighty ones,
All tending to one point through varying paths,
Led on by thee, most false philosophy!
For they all wander'd in their lofty quest
Till their feet dangled over the abyss,
And the upheaving gulph was full in view,
While that they had pursued went floating o'er,
Like Summer vapour to the other side;
And the eternal stars looked calmly on,
Inviting them to cross the roaring deep,
And eat the fruits of knowledge in their midst;
For they had come up face to face with death,
And saw that only he possess'd the key
Of highest knowledge, of truth absolute,—
That he could loose the trammels of the soul—
He only—that to him alone was given
The power to break the mud-crust of their cell,
And let them soar and sing for evermore!
They saw this, and acknowledged it;—And he
Smiled on them, calling them his dearest friends,
And laid his white hand on their bended heads,
Giving them all his blessing. Wherefore they,
And all who follow them, return again
Unto the laughing upper world, pale-brow'd,
Encircled in a myst atmosphere,
With deep eyes looking into distant Night,—
Children of death, and bearing on their face
The impress of his pale, transparent hand!

THE SEASON.

BESIDES the Drama and Public Amusements, noticed in their own departments, there are some things belonging to the Season which may be conveniently throw together under this title. The *Réunion des Arts* is one of the most interesting and attractive of the societies that gather together the distinguished in literature and art. It occupies a magnificent house in Harley-street. It has a fortnightly meeting, at which a large assembly of authors and artists is to be found, with excellent music, pictures, portfolios, and conversation to amuse them. At the last one we noticed a very fine picture by HILTON, said to be his last, the subject, the "Witches in Macbeth," full of power; also a beautiful group of flowers, by Mr. V. BARTHOLOMEW, the foremost of our flower painters, and who is so highly esteemed for the happy faculty he has of imparting his skill to his pupils. The *Graphic Society* is the best of the Art-Unions—a society of artists who assemble at the London University once a month, for intercourse and mutual exhibition of their portfolios, &c. The meeting on Wednesday last was distinguished by two drawings of Russian bores, by a Russian artist, named YVAN—works full of genius, the drawing masterly, the grouping and the expression rivaling those of the old painters; the only fault being some feebleness of colour. There was also a marvellous portrait by GEORGE LANCE, who ought to lay aside his fruit, and devote himself to portrait painting, if he could always paint portraits thus. Some of the portfolios were extremely rich, especially E. A. GOODALL's sketches from Spain, and COWAN's gatherings in Italy. The Photographs, too, were numerous, and of first-rate excellence, particularly a large number brought from Venice by Mr. COOKE. Among the novelties of the season is the Institution in Leicester-square, just opened to the public. It is much upon the plan of the Polytechnic, with some peculiarities; but as yet it is incomplete. We hear Mr. SMITH's (not ALBERT's) "Tour of Europe" in Leicester-square very well spoken of; but we have not seen it. The thoughts of the public are, however, beginning to turn to the Crystal Palace, which is positively to open on the 24th of May; but we hear that it will be in a very unfinished state even then, spite of the army of men who are employed upon it.

GOOD COUNSEL.—The most superficial glance at the present condition of European States, shows that those nations which linger in the race cannot hope to escape the partial diminution, and, perhaps, final annihilation of their resources. It is with nations as with nature, which knows no pause in ever-increasing movement, development and production—a curse ever cleaving to standing still.—*Humboldt.*

ENGLISH LITERATURE.

BIOGRAPHY.

Jerome Cardan. By HENRY MORLEY. 2 vols. Chapman and Hall.

(Concluded from p. 179.)

JEROME CARDAN had a vision of a lady in white, which had its interpretation in his marrying Lucia Bandarini. He brought her home to no well-appointed house, to very bare cupboards, but, nevertheless, to his affections; and for many years they appear to have lived happily together. Jerome by this time was known as a learned man and a sound physician; but his knowledge of physic did not find him the means of making an extended honeymoon. So from Sacco, where there were but few people to mar or to mend, and where he had spent much time in gambling and in such riotous living as the place afforded, he returned to Milan, resolving to try his fortunes in a city to which plague made frequent visits, and wherein there was always a fair amount of sickness. But into the Milanese College of Physicians Jerome was not to be permitted to enter. He had undoubtedly graduated as M.D.; but then, as he could not show his sixteen quarterings—as he could not purge himself of the taint of bastardy—he could not be admitted into such honourable company. He had therefore to practise illegally, and to fill up his leisure in writing books and rattling the dice-box. The struggles of the young physician and his wife must, at this time, have been very severe. Indeed, during all her lifetime, the poor woman knew nothing but privation; for, just as Jerome began to be established in the world, and to earn sufficiency of gold pieces, she departed from life. From Milan the persecuted physician retired to Gallarte, thinking that there was an opening for him there. But the stars were still malignant. Few coins came for counsel; and the man sat down philosophically to write a treatise upon Fate. Here was born unto him his first child, a son, a child of sorrow, as we soon discover. No event in Jerome's life but had its attendant signs and wonders. Thus, when this first-born, Gianbatista, was being christened, "there flew into the room a mighty wasp." This was in the month of May, when wasps had no business to be about. All the gossips present predicted from this omen that the life of the child would be short, and that he would be suddenly cut off. In this prediction Jerome himself concurred. In the sequel we find that it was verified. Gianbatista was educated by his father as a physician, and might have done well if he had had better example set before his eyes. But, unfortunately, he saw too much gambling, and too many of his father's boon companions, the gluttonous and drunken musicians; and, having imprudently married a worthless woman, one Brandonia, he made a sorrowful end. For this woman, after leading him a life of much domestic misery, accused herself of infidelity, denying that he was the father of their children, possibly the more to enrage him only. At all events, a speedy end was put to the quarrel. Gianbatista Cardan purchased arsenic, and had it mixed with his wife's food. As a consequence she died; and as a farther consequence the ill-fated young man was apprehended and tried; he confessed his guilt, and was executed in prison. We have so far anticipated the narrative.

Cardan had no practice in Gallarte, and accordingly returned once more to Milan, to do battle with fortune and the College of Physicians. He had so far the worst of the conflict that he was completely beggared, and had, along with the patient, unrepining Lucia, and the predestinated Gianbatista, to take refuge in the Xenodochium, a fine name for the city poor-house. Out of this affliction he was brought, however, by the kindness of a friend, and was promoted to a small appointment, to deliver lectures on geometry, arithmetic, and astronomy, under the will of one Thomas Plat, a deceased citizen of Milan. The same friend introduced him to other sources of income, by means of all which he became "passing rich" on fifty crowns a year. "But he was a philosopher," says Mr. Morley, "and he and Lucia were quite able to subsist on that." Of the nature and quality of which subsistence let us take a survey on the philosopher's breakfast-table—a rickety thing in itself, no doubt, with

slender appointments of pot and platter; for as yet we are before the age of Delft. "He breakfasted," says our engaging authority, "on barley-bread and water, and compared with the relish of an epicure the respective merits of nasturtium leaves, rue, parsley, and other herbs, as economic means of making bread and water savoury." Truly there is very much in "make-believe," as the "little marchioness" expressed it.

Upon the strength of these fifty crowns a year Cardan became housekeeper, taking his mother to reside with him; and we find that his family consisted of eight persons, and a she-mule upon which the physician rode abroad to pay his few professional visits, or to exercise his infirm body. His few professional visits, we say; and they would have been fewer if the tongues of his own patients had prevailed in crying him down. They went to him, as to a magician, to heal their ailments, and when he had sent them home whole they reviled him as they would have reviled a warlock. He was undoubtedly a sincere and tender-hearted man, and, under a rude speech, had a fund of compassion for suffering humanity; but humanity would not understand him. He was a plain-spoken man—an Italian Abernethy—who no doubt rated his patients for the abuse of favourite vintages, and the too free use of dyspeptical ailments. He was still at war with the Milanese physicians, who were determined never to surrender to the clever doctor of the bend-sinister—who was in bad repute, moreover, as a dicer and a geometer. To prove to the world the extent of his professional skill, and that squares, triangles, and wicked ivory cubes did not incapacitate him from healing the sick, he resolved to write a book.

Now Jerome Cardan had been writing books ever since he was a boy—books on all sciences and subjects; but hitherto he had never had the glorious privilege of beholding himself in print. He had circulated his manuscripts among his few friends, much to their detriment, and often to his own loss; but this time he resolved to print a book which might be read of all who could read the Latin language. His subject was an unfortunate one, as far as the College of Physicians was concerned—one not likely to gain him friends in that direction—"De Malo Medendi Usu"—on the bad practice of medicine in common use. The book sold rapidly, and put money into the pocket of the printer Ottaviano Scoto, of Venice, but put nothing into the pocket of Cardan, to enable him to make his bread and water more savoury.

It was a clever book, denouncing seventy-two errors in practice. Such errors were the total denial of wine to the sick, the denial of fish, and the allowance of flesh to people sick of fever; the belief, prevalent in many quarters, that there could be found one mode of cure for all diseases; and the doctrine that no patient should be bled while suffering under acute pain—a woful sentence to some—sentence of death, for example, to the man tormented by the agonies of an acute inflammation of the peritonium. He taught that to do nothing with physic was much better than to do too much, and urged the great number of things that have to be considered before a man desiring to act rightly should set his hand to a prescription. The book was clever.

Clever books are not always correct books. This one turned out to be full of small faults of style, grammar, and the like, much to the mortification of the author. "I blush to acknowledge," he says, "that there were more than even three hundred blunders of mine in this book, exclusive of misprints." Neither did it fulfil the expectations of the author. It added only to the hostility of the physicians, who, of course, could not submit to the criticisms of a young man. "Where I looked for honour," he said, "I reaped nothing but shame." Nevertheless, he was now a public author. Other books speedily followed, as those on Wisdom and Consolation, and on Arithmetic. On one hand he was extolled as an author; on the other, cried down as an astrologer. He came into the world, a human phenomenon, to puzzle and perplex it. As an astrologer, he several times drew out his own horoscope, according to which he ought to have died at such and such a time; but, as he continued to live, he attributed the failure of his predictions not to the incertitude of the art, but to the ignorance of the artist. A more daring attempt was his construction of the

horoscope of Jesus Christ. The book which he wrote on this subject was suppressed by the Church.

About this time, that is to say, when nearly forty years of age, it chanced to him to effect several remarkable cures on patients of distinction—one of whom, the Senator Spondrato, afterwards Cardinal, became his steady patron; and through his influence chiefly it was that the College of Physicians at length opened its gates to admit him. His fame as a scholar was still rapidly extending; had reached Germany, and procured for him the admiration and assistance of the learned of that country. But Cardan was still poor, earning more as a maker of almanacs than as a physician. Some exiguous coin fell in his way, too, as a constructor of horoscopes. After being admitted of the college a slothful fit came over him for a space—at least, he attended to little besides Greek and gambling. In the latter pursuit he had a rare encourager in one Antonio Vicomercato, a patrician of Milan. For more than two whole years, and sometimes all the day long, the rich man and the poor physician spent their time with dice; and as Jerome always rose a winner, generally carrying a gold piece home with him, the pursuit to him was all the more agreeable. But this was not the way to obtain a standing in society, and had several bad domestic consequences.

With money so earned, or with money however earned, in the midst of his poverty he was improvident. He enjoyed musical evenings; and music, as he said, led to unprofitable company. The taste of the period was for part-singing, and it was not easy to collect four or five men who could sing readily together, and who could think and feel together also. If he had musical companions to his house, they cost him heavily for suppers, and corrupted the minds of his children. For most singers, he said—and I suspect that he could not easily libel the good table-companions of the sixteenth century—most singers are drunken, gluttonous, impudent, unsettled, impatient, stolid, inert, ready for every kind of lust. The best men of that sort are fools. Upon such men, despising them, but relishing their music, Cardan squandered a good deal of his money.

Luckily for Cardan, Vicomercato one day made him swear an oath, in the name of all the gods at once, that he would never come near him again for the purpose of gambling. Jerome did so, and again began to study.

We next find Cardan lecturing as professor of medicine in the University of Pavia, which was then seated in Milan on account of the wars. When better times returned, Jerome was invited to return with the University to its own proper quarters, but hesitated. A third child had just been born to him.

Quite prepared to remain where he was, Jerome went to bed as usual on the night before he was to return his answer to the Senate, which required to know whether he would abide by his professorship and teach in Pavia. He went to bed in the usual way with his wife, his eldest boy, Giovanni Batista, ten years old, and Aldo, the baby, all under one cover; but, wonderful to relate, on that night the house tumbled down. Nobody was hurt; but, his home in Milan being thus suddenly and literally broken up, as he believed, of course, by a special and miraculous dispensation, he changed the tenor of his answer to the Senate, and in the year 1554 consented to remove. The salary to be received by him at Pavia would be two hundred and forty gold crowns.

There are two interesting chapters in Mr. Morley's first volume on the great algebraical quarrel between Messer Hieronimo Cardano and Messer Nicolo Tartaglia, in which we are glad to find a grave charge which has been brought against Cardano disposed of—it may be seen in the *Biographie Universelle*—to the effect that he cheated Tartaglia after having sworn to him upon the four gospels, and appropriated his algebraical studies. It will be found that Cardan was incapable of such dishonourable conduct. The most that can be said against him is, that he improved upon Tartaglia's hint.

There were now a turn in the tide of Jerome's affairs. His salary at Pavia was raised to four hundred gold crowns, and he went on lecturing, and ever more writing books, rejoicingly. He was educating his children, moreover, and appears at this period to have been a decent amenable citizen. The Pavian exchequer failing through wars and troubles, Cardan resigned his

professorship in the University and retired to Milan, where he was residing when he received a letter of ponderous length from Cassanate, body physician to John Hamilton, Archbishop of St. Andrew's, who, hearing of his fame as a physician, especially in the cure of phthisis, invoked his aid. Cardan, in consequence, undertook a journey to Paris; and from thence circumstances led him into Scotland, and subsequently into England, where he was admitted to an audience with the boy-King Edward VI., and held a conversation with him on the subject of comets, which to us reads more curious than instructive. Of the King, he says, "he was a marvellous boy. . . . When I had speech with him he was fifteen years old, and he asked me (speaking Latin with as much polish and promptitude as I could use myself) 'What are there in those rare books of yours on the Variety of Things?' " Farther, he calculated the King's horoscope, providing him with a fair stretch of life for one so sickly. "After the age of fifty-five years, three months, and seventeen days, various diseases will fall to his lot." The King died shortly after the prediction was made; and Cardan honestly exposes his own errors, with full faith, at the same time, in astrological science. He appears to have been fond of England and the English; but to him their language was barbarous.

I wondered much, especially when I was in England, and rode about on horseback in the neighbourhood of London; for I seemed to be in Italy. When I looked among those groups of English sitting together, I completely thought myself to be among Italians. They were like, as I said, in figure, manners, dress, gesture, colour; but when they opened their mouths I could not understand so much as a word, and wondered at them as if they had been my countrymen gone mad and raving. For they inflect the tongue upon the palate, twist words in the mouth, and maintain a sort of gnashing with the teeth.

Elsewhere he says:

The English are faithful, liberal, and ambitious; but as for fortitude, the things done by the Highland Scots are the most wonderful. They, when they are led to execution, take a piper with them, and he, who is himself often one of the condemned, plays them up dancing to their death.

But we must now draw to a close. We have already alluded to the untimely end of Cardan's son. The blow fell upon the old man's heart like a thunderbolt, and he, who had borne himself bravely against many a rude assault in his lifetime, lay prostrate, feeling himself crushed under a load of infamy. The same week that the son was executed, his eldest son (Cardan's grandson) died. There remained then but an infant, which, although born in adultery, he received into his house. His reputation in Pavia was destroyed, and he walked about the streets shrinking from the gaze of former acquaintances. Morbid fancies rankled in his brain, and all his former eccentricities were aggravated. He afflicted and tortured his body, made long vigils, and returned to the long forsown dice. He was degraded in Milan, and expelled the city by the Senate. He was accused of offences against religion by the Church, and for some time lay in a dungeon. The printing of his books was stopped, and his rents were withheld from him. He had one glimpse of sunshine at Bologna, but gloom again gathered around him. Between 1571 and 1576 he lived as a private person in Rome, subsisting on a pension allowed him by the Pope. His poor son was ever the uppermost subject of his thoughts, and the old man might have been seen staggering about the streets of Rome, wearing the air of a Bedlamite, and mumbling in his toothless gums an emerald stone, of supposed mystic properties, to keep away the remembrance of his executed child. Hear how he speaks of himself when at Bologna:—

In all good fortune, and in the midst of my successes, I never changed my manners, was made no rougher, no more ambitious, no more impatient; I did not learn to despise poor men or to forget old friends; I did not become harder in social intercourse or more assuming in my speech; nor did I use costlier clothes than my occupation rendered necessary. But in bearing of adversity my nature is not so firm; for I have been compelled to endure some things that were beyond my strength. I have overcome nature then by art; for in the greatest agonies of my mind I whipped my thighs with a switch, bit sharply my left arm, and fasted; because I was much relieved by weeping, when the tears would come, but very frequently they would not."

Cardan laid himself bare, his whole heart and being, with the skill of an anatomist; and perhaps his own account of himself did more to in-

jure his character with posterity than anything suggested by the malice of his enemies. He died at Rome, on the 20th September 1576, when he was seventy-five years old.

We most heartily commend Mr. Morley's volumes to our readers; assuring them of a fund of pleasant and instructive matter. The author maintains the interest of his narrative throughout, and most conscientiously adheres to his texts. The extracts he gives from Cardan's writings prove him, notwithstanding abundant follies and many vagaries, to have been a man of strong, practical common-sense, with a fine stratum of tender feeling and honest purpose lying under a rough and often forbidding surface.

We trust soon to meet with Mr. Morley again. We suspect the present to be the second only (Palissy the potter being the first) of a series of similar works. We know of no one who could so well illustrate two of Cardan's much misunderstood contemporaries—Cornelius Agrippa, and Paracelsus.

PHILOSOPHY.

Proverbial Philosophy. By MARTIN F. TUPPER. Illustrated. London: Hatchard.

WE confess that we cannot share the popular enthusiasm for this collection of metrical wisdom. A great deal of the philosophy appears to us to be mere truism, and such of it as is original we should have preferred to read in plain unpretending prose. But in this opinion we stand almost alone. The popular world thinks otherwise, and Mr. Tupper's metrical sermons are everywhere to be found, and everywhere applauded, if not always read. Very welcome to his admirers will be this superb edition of them, in quarto, printed on the best and thickest paper, adorned with nearly a hundred illustrations by the best modern artists. It is, moreover, superbly bound, and will be an ornament to the drawing-room table. We understand that 3000*l.* has been expended upon the production of this volume.

SCIENCE.

The Eighth Edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica, or Dictionary of Arts, Science, and General Literature. Vols. III. and IV. Edinburgh: A. C. Black.

SINCE our former notice two more volumes of this great national work have been completed, and they are now before us, suggesting curious reflections upon the proof they give of the progress of human knowledge since we first remember being interested in them on the appearance of the fourth edition. What changes in almost every page! Whole sciences added. Arts, then undreamed of, now flourishing, and claiming elaborate essays. The march of the human mind itself might be measured by reference to the successive editions of the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. What a curious article might be deduced from this by an industrious pen!

The present edition brings down human knowledge to its present state; and every article in which time had made a change has been rewritten, so as to introduce those changes. Another improvement is the publication of the names of the authors of the various papers. That is essential to give its true value to a work of this class, whose worth lies in its being an authority; and an anonymous assertion never can or ought to be accepted as such. The third volume opens with the second part of the article "Anatomy," which occupies more than 100 pages, and is illustrated by many engravings. The next attractive paper is on "Angling," which should be consulted by all lovers of the rod, for it gives the best and most practical instruction we have ever read, comprising an account of the various fish and the means of capturing them. "Animal Kingdom" is a general sketch of the scientific classification of that portion of creation; and "Animalcule" a particular description of another of its divisions. Mr. Milne has given us all the science of "Annuities," with elaborate tables for calculating value. A paper of very great interest has been contributed on "Apparitions." In geography there are full accounts of "Arabia" and "Asia." "Archæology" is treated as a science. "Architecture" occupies a very large space, and is profusely illustrated; and even a glossary of technical terms is appended. There is the best sketch in our language of "Aristotle's Philosophy." "Arithmetic and Astronomy" are treated with the attention due to the importance of those sciences. The article "Army" will perhaps be now more often consulted than it has been, and it will be found full of useful information; as will also the companion essay on "Artillery."

The fourth volume completes the article "Astronomy," which includes every recent discovery. Among the many geographical articles in this volume, the most interesting are on Athens, Attica, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Beelochistan, and Bolivia. It is also rich in biography, among the memoirs being those of Bacon, Banks, Barry, Baxter, Berkeley, Boccaccio. In science, Attraction, Balance, Barometer, Bleaching, and Blow-pipe; and, on general subjects, the most

noteworthy are on Balance of Power, Bankruptcy, Bathing, Beard, Beauty, Bee, Beekeeping, Bells, Bible, Bibliography, Blind. Each volume contains upwards of thirty large steel engravings and maps.

Modern Husbandry: a Practical and Scientific Treatise on Agriculture, illustrating the most approved practices in Draining, Cultivating, and Manuring, &c. By G. H. ANDREWS, Esq., C. E. London: N. Cooke.

OF the many useful enterprises of Mr. N. Cooke this is the most useful. A cheap and good book on the Practice of Farming has been long in request. There is no lack of agricultural treatises, indeed; but they are too theoretical, or too learned, or too difficult, or too costly. Mr. Andrews has treated the subject with remarkable simplicity of language and minuteness of instructions, so that every farmer may read it with pleasure and profit. Another advantage is the systematic arrangement, which enables any topic sought for to be readily found. Thus, commencing with soils, he proceeds to tenure, leases, rates, taxes, and valuation of farms; thence to the duties of the farmer after he is in—drainage being properly placed foremost in the list of improvements, because without that all others are worthless. The farm buildings are next treated of, and the machinery with which they should be supplied; then the breeding, rearing, and fattening of stock; manures and their application to the various crops; the cultivation of land; the harvesting; and, lastly, a miscellaneous chapter comprises all requisite instructions for the management of orchards, woodlands, coppices, fences, diseases of cattle, &c., to which is appended a useful series of tables for ready calculation of weights and measures. The volume is handsomely printed, as are all those published by Mr. Cooke, and it is profusely illustrated with clever woodcuts from drawings by E. Duncan and Harrison Weir. Every landowner and farmer in the United Kingdom should have this volume upon his bookshelf for reference as well as for reading.

DR. MANTELL contributed more than any man of his generation, except Lyell, to make geology the popular science it has now become. Worthily, therefore, has Mr. Bohn introduced into his "Scientific Library," a new edition (the third) of his *Geological Excursion to the Isle of Wight and the Adjacent Coast of Dorsetshire*. This interesting and instructive tour of an observer is now illustrated with numerous engravings, which add much to its value as a book of instruction.

HISTORY.

Gibbon's History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire; with Notes, &c. Vol. III. London: Bohn.

MR. BOHN has prefixed to this third volume of his excellent edition of Gibbon a complete and triumphant vindication of it against the spiteful attack of the *Athenæum*. Of the origin of that attack there can be no doubt. Mr. Murray has brought out another edition of Gibbon, also designed to be part of a series of British classics. To Mr. Bohn belonged the merit of the design of these cheap series of standard works. Mr. Bohn commenced them at his own risk, when the experiment was untried, and might have failed. Mr. Bohn succeeded; he won public confidence by upwards of 300 volumes, to which no exception had been taken. When Mr. Bohn added to these a Gibbon, it was necessary to the success of Mr. Murray's Gibbon that the public mind should be prejudiced against Mr. Bohn's Gibbon, preparatory to the appearance of its rival. Hence the article in the *Athenæum*, trying to pick holes in it. It was an article in the interest of Mr. Murray, not an article in the interest of literature; and the design was so manifest that it defeated itself, and scarcely needed the formal refutation given to it by the editors of Mr. Bohn's Gibbon. But, not content with self-vindication, they have fairly turned the tables upon their antagonist. They take Mr. Murray's Gibbon, and subject it to a similarly minute criticism, and show that it is full of blunders of various kinds. In the second volume they discover no less than 151; and they also "show up" the quality of the notes, the specimens taken from a single volume being puerile in the extreme. The notes in Mr. Bohn's edition are taken from Guizot, Wenck, Schreier, Hugo, and the best recent topographical and other authorities; so that there is really no comparison between the two, in value or in cost. Mr. Bohn's Gibbon is the best as well as the cheapest. Mr. Murray's is to cost 3*l.*; Mr. Bohn's will cost only 30*s.*; yet would we prefer the latter if the cost had been reversed. We would rather give 3*l.* for Mr. Bohn's Gibbon than 30*s.* for Mr. Murray's.

THE WAR BOOKS.

An Historical Review of the Reign of Emperor Nikolai I. Translated from the Russian of Ustrialoff. By WILLIAM ROBERTS. London: James Madden. 1854.

THE translator of M. Ustrialoff's little volume

is entitled to the thanks of the British public for the curiosity with which he has presented them. We are acquainted with the philosophy of the Russian mind that thinks, through the works of Russian exiles, who have expressed their opinion on the state of their country. This translation affords a specimen of the Russian mind that obeys, and records the fact. It also records other facts, but in a purely allegorical style—the peculiar style of Russian historians and of Russian proclamations—that, for instance, in which General Wiljaminoff, in 1837, informed the rebels of the Caucasus that “Russia had conquered France, and henceforth there remained only two rightful masters: God in heaven, and the Czar on earth.”

The tale commences with the last days of the Emperor Alexander, which were signalised, remarks the narrator,

By a discovery which lay heavy at his heart. It had been known to him for some years, that a *handful of weak-minded men* thought in their daring folly to change the government of the State, in imitation of the *monsters of France* at the end of the eighteenth century. . . . Russia is indebted to him for the prevention of those pernicious designs, which were made evident in a few *local disturbances* at the close of the year 1825.

Baptised in the blood of his subjects, the destined champion of the Christian faith ascended “the throne of all the Russias.” “The coronation of the Czar was a grand spectacle,” wrote wittily a Frenchman, a spectator of the scene: “Behind the Emperor stood the murderers of his father, on one side the murderers of his brother, and on the other side, his own.” The Russian author alludes with greater reverence to the sacred subject, relating the contest of affection between the two princes, until Nicholas, yielding to the entreaties of his elder brother, consented to reign.

In those *sacred moments* the national joy was marred by an event as afflicting as it was unexpected. On the 14th of December, the day of the publication of the manifesto at St. Petersburg, a *handful of rebels* presumed to resist the general oath, the *law authority*, and military discipline.

The attempt was happily crushed, and from the malignant *handful* 121 were sentenced “to undergo well-merited punishment.”

Russia, on one hand, with horror and detestation received intelligence of the undertaking, as pernicious as it was rash; on the other, she rejoiced that the design, concocted by a *handful of monsters*, had corrupted only their own immediate circle—the depraved at heart or the daring visionary—and that the efforts of evil-minded men, which had been maturing for the last ten years, had extended no further.

The most mysterious crime committed by this *handful of monsters* employed in scattering germs of discontent to disturb the mind of a people absorbed in beatific visions—their most mysterious crime was undoubtedly that of rebellion against the *law authority*, which did not, according to the statement of our voracious Muscovite, even exist in Russia till long after the hangman, very awkwardly, had performed his office on the chiefs of the conspiracy. The following abstract from the history of Muscovite legislation, proceeding from a Russian apologist of the Russian system, cannot fail to interest our readers.

THE CODE.

Glorified by the genius of Peter, and set in order by the minds of Catherine and Alexander, Russia so rapidly developed her capabilities. . . . that the Government did not succeed in establishing a general conformity of parts, and in giving to its ordinances the fulness and proportion so essentially necessary.

On the accession of the Emperor Nicholas, his first attention was directed to the melancholy state of the country's legislation.

The grand code of the Tsar Alexis Mikhailovitch formed the basis of our positive laws now in operation, which date as far back as the middle of the 18th century. . . . By it all the former heterogeneous laws were reduced to a perfect whole. But this code, being by force of circumstances composed hastily—in two months and a half—comprised within its narrow bounds merely the general and principal elements of legislation; and for that period, even, was shown to be unsatisfactory.

The task of forming a compendium of this code, with the addition of subsequent laws, was confided by Peter I. to a commission, who commenced their labours in a sanguine spirit; but at the end of fourteen years they had scarcely pierced through the obscurities of three chapters, while, to use the author's words,

The laws were augmented and errors multiplied.

Ten reigns followed, and still the impracticable

code clung like a nightmare to the Czars; it could not be extricated from confusion—it could not be shaken off. Their dominions extended in Europe, touched the oriental portals; they mustered armies and mastered diplomacy; but the code remained, like the Jew at the gate of Mordecai, the mockery of present state, the augury of future evil.

The necessity of a code was constant—immutable. All the successors of Peter endeavoured to accomplish it; and, for better success in so great an undertaking, the deputies of the whole empire were not unfrequently convened. . . . The Government spared nothing. The mere expenses for the maintenance of the commissioners from 1754 alone amounted to a million and a half of silver roubles. The fruit of all their efforts, labours, and sacrifices, was a few projects and some chapters which did not receive the force of law. Meanwhile, from the time of the publication of the grand code—a period of 176 years—the number of acts affecting the property, the rank, the life of every Russian, had swelled to more than 30,000.

Although these laws in the goodness of their elements yield, in the author's estimation, to no laws in the world, yet the want of arrangement reduced them to a chaotic mass of contradictions. The “enormous difference” of the laws under different reigns will less surprise the reader when he remembers that a *law* in Russia means a ukase issued from the absolute will of the Czar. It was a radical principle that every new law should annul a preceding one on the same subject; but, as details originating in it had a force in opposition to the new law, yet surviving the old, the judges themselves were in ignorance which was the established and which the superseded law.

Nicholas, therefore, devised no mean conquest, when he applied himself to the revision of the code, appointing to his assistance the friend of Alexander, Speranski. During four years the second section of the Privy Chancery were exclusively occupied with this work, and in 1830 appeared “a complete collection of the laws, in forty-five volumes, comprising more than 30,000 Acts.”

The compendium concluded, the Emperor was confirmed in his conviction that the collection of his predecessors' ukases, considered as a legal structure, might be susceptible of reform. The criminal code was first subjected to the new process, when Speranski's death removed an able coadjutor. Count Bludoff succeeded to the superintendence of the commission, and in Aug. 1845 a revised criminal and correctional code received the authorisation of his Imperial Majesty. Meanwhile, under his immediate guidance, the general laws of the Empire were undergoing important modifications. The author confesses his inability to enumerate in so brief a sketch the changes of twenty years; but, he asserts,

Clothed in the form of law, they fill even twenty volumes, comprising about 20,000 Acts. . . . The achievement of one great architect, embracing in his lucid mind all the conditions of the social edifice, from the very highest to the most minute. . . . Of course the very best laws are powerless, when in the general mass there is no inward moral persuasion of the indispensable necessity of a friendly co-operation with the Government; but, thanks to the Almighty, Russia is not in such a position; with love, with confidence, she turns her regard upon her monarch, and each estate devotedly honours his commands. *The laws, as the expression of the imperial will, are to us sacred.*

Thus far we have adhered strictly to the statement of the loyal Russian. It would be difficult indeed to exaggerate the picture, or illustrate its character more forcibly than by the term laws held sacred, as the expression of the imperial will. Legislation, in the true sense of the word, cannot exist in an empire dependent upon the will of a single man. Speranski, no less than his eulogist M. Ustrialoff, was devoted to the autocratic principle; yet this eminent man despaired of the regeneration of his country. Karamzin shed tears at the death of Robespierre, and they flowed from a profound source; he had watched with interest the endeavour to create a free nation by the exercise of absolute power; and his regret, at the spectacle of its failure, arose from a sentiment truly patriotic.

The basely ungrateful character of the Polish people, insensible to the blessing conferred in the yoke of Muscovite “law authority”; the mischievous tendency of the United Greek Church, whose members declined to acknowledge the spiritual headship of the Czar; the mild measures employed to exterminate these foes to order; and the Te Deums chanted upon the occasion—are carefully treated in this volume. The fabulous

nuns of Minsk, of course, are not alluded to, nor is there any notice of certain ukases in reference to the better organisation of Poland, which, as examples of Russian law, deserve remark—one especially significant was issued after the insurrection in November 1831, commanding the governor of Podolia to transport, “in the first instance, 5000 families of Polish gentlemen from the government of Podolia to the Steppes.” Their place of banishment was to be chosen “in preference, on the line, or in the district of the Caucasus, in order that they may be enrolled in the military service.”

To effect the said *transplantation*, select—1st, persons who, having taken part in the late insurrection, have returned at the fixed time to testify their repentance; also those included in the third class of offenders, who have consequently received the grace and pardon of his Majesty. 2ndly, persons whose manner of living, in the opinion of the local authorities, is liable to the suspicion of Government.

Your Excellency (the governor) will use all necessary means, without publishing or making known the tenor of this order, to register the families who are to be transplanted, in order that you may proceed with the execution of this order, according to regulations which will be hereafter communicated.

In April 1832 the Minister of the Interior again writes:

His Majesty, confirming these regulations, has deigned to add with his own hand, “These regulations will serve not only for the government of Podolia, but for all the western governments also. . . . making in all *forty-five thousand families.*”

In 1830 Nicholas said to the Polish deputation, the justice of whose complaints he had acknowledged, “At the first shot fired by the Poles I will exterminate Poland.” In 1834 he warned the municipality of Warsaw in his famous speech—“At the first movement in Warsaw I will bury the city in ruins, and it is not I who will rebuild it.” Some years since the military colonies at Novogorod revolted, and killed their general, an occurrence tolerably frequent. An order of the day was addressed to them—“The disobedient may expect no mercy; I will exterminate them from the land of their birth like the children of perdition.”

We conclude with a passage relating to a terrible visitation, the cholera; at St. Petersburg alone, during the most fatal period, it destroyed daily from 300 to 500 persons. The Czar sought to alleviate the wretchedness, which reaches to such gigantic proportions in the chaos of his dominions, revealed in its true terrors under the pressure of extraordinary calamity. We would not detract from the merit of the Czar's efforts in his desire to reverse the effect of his governmental system; but can the fatal result, in the abject condition of a people, be more fully developed than by the almost blasphemous detail contained in the following extract?

The joyful and incredible news spread with the rapidity of lightning. “The sovereign is in Moscow!” Many saw, on the morning of the 29th of September—a day for Russia never to be forgotten—his Majesty stop at the Ivorskoï gate, an entrance to the Kremlin, and prostrate himself before the image of the Holy Virgin. The people could not believe their eyes; they surrounded the sovereign and loudly prayed for his safety. “Our father,” they cried on all sides, “we knew thou wouldst be here. Where misery is, there art thou.” The imperial flag soon waved over the palace; the cathedral churches sent forth their merry peals; and the Kremlin was filled with immense crowds, who, in trembling suspense, and with emotion, beheld their common father on his way from the palace of the Tsars to the great Uspenskii Cathedral, to entreat the Almighty for the safety of his children. At the entrance of the temple, Philaret, the metropolitan of Moscow, said to his Majesty: “We meet thee, O sovereign! with the cross; may resurrection and life go forth with thee!”

At St. Petersburg its frightful ravages induced the people to attribute the malady to poison; riots ensued, the doctors and the police were the chief objects of indignation; and crowds, infuriated by rage and drunkenness, attempted to rescue the patients from the hospitals, where it was rumoured they were suffering torment. The presence of the Emperor calmed the tumult, and he devoted from the public treasury 130,000 rubles banco for the erection of infirmaries.

In a few days after that, the cholera began to abate. . . . and the joyful news of the conquest of Warsaw was received at the moment of general confidence in the goodness of the Almighty.

A Batch of War Ballads. By MARTIN F. TUPPER. London: T. Bosworth. 1854. MARTIN TUPPER is an excellent and harmonious

exponent of popular sentiments. But this poet is not a "new one," and requires no introduction. His present work contains a dozen ballads; and, in deference to the author's established reputation, we quote the two most philosophical verses in the collection.

OUR FALSE AND TRUE POSITION.

Here we are by no mischance
(Duty's call we dare not shirk),
Hand in hand with Papal France,
Fighting for the Pagan Turk,
All against a Christian Czar
And his holy Church of Greece,
Forced unwillingly to war
Simply as the friends of Peace!
Who could but a year ago
Such involvements have foreseen?
Who might guess that friend and foe
Could so queerly mixed have been?
Then the Frenchman was our fear,
And our utter scorn the Pope;
While against all perils near,
Russia stood for Europe's hope!

The Russo-Turkish Campaigns of 1828 and 1829: With a View of the present State of Affairs in the East. By Colonel CHESNEY. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

COLONEL CHESNEY's volume has rapidly reached a second edition. A useful, even indispensable, book of reference to the student who desires, at small expense of time and trouble, to form an opinion with regard to the prospects of the present war, and the resources Turkey can command independently against the common foe—we cordially, a second time, recommend it to the notice of our readers.

FICTION.

THE NEW NOVELS.

Atherton, and other Tales. By MARY RUSSELL MITFORD, Author of "Our Village." 3 vols. London: Hurst and Blackett.

The Heir of Vallis. By WILLIAM MATHEWS. 3 vols. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

The Heiress of Somerton. 3 vols. London: Bentley.

Flora Lyndsay; or, Passages in an Eventful Life. By Mrs. MOODIE, Author of "Roughing it in the Bush," &c. 2 vols. London: Bentley.

MELANCHOLY is the history that introduces *Atherton*. Our readers will regret to learn that it was written in circumstances of extremest depression—not of mind, for that has lost nothing of its ancient vigour; affliction has not ruffled its old calm, nor pain disturbed that beautiful placidity of temper—but of body, so sorely afflicted with anguish and infirmity. It seems that about two years since Mary Russell Mitford was thrown from her pony gig, and the shock had such an effect upon a frame previously having a strong tendency to rheumatism, that ever since she has been deprived of the use of her limbs. "I have been," as she informs us in her preface, "confined to my room, wheeled with difficulty from the bed to the fireside; unable to rise from my seat, to stand for a moment, to put one foot before another; and when lifted into bed, incapable of turning or moving in the slightest degree whatever. Even in writing I was often obliged to have the ink-glass held for me, because I could not raise my hand to dip the pen in the ink. In this state, with great paroxysms of pain, was the greater part of 'Atherton' written."

But the sufferings of the body are not shown by any depression of the mind; there is no trace of pain in these pages; Miss Mitford paints, as fondly and truthfully as of yore, country folk and country scenes. Nature has lost no one of her charms, though represented by a hand tremulous with weakness; nor is her clear vision of the good and beautiful dimmed, because beheld through the mists of a sick room by eyes quivering with anguish. *Atherton* is, if possible, more in the spirit of "Our Village" than anything beside that Miss Mitford has written; as if, divorced by her infirmity from the actual presence of nature, her fancy revelled the more freely among the memories of the past, and summoned them before her mental vision with a distinctness of form and hue unknown in the season of health. This is the charm of *Atherton* and for this it will go down to posterity as a truthful picture of rural England in our own time, side by side with those worthies who have preserved for our enjoyment sketches of England as she was in the days that are antiquity to us, as ours will be antiquity to the generations of another century.

The plot of *Atherton* is a very simple one, but it is well constructed and admirably sustained.

Miss Mitford does not attempt the romantic or the wonderful. She is content to please by the natural evolution of a probable story. There is nothing exciting in her tales. You do not hang over them breathlessly, loath to leave them till the last page is devoured and the catastrophe known; but you are led on by a gentle fascination, rather to seek further acquaintance with the persons she introduces to you, than for the sake of learning their adventures. Therefore you lay them down and take them up again at your leisure; and when you have read them through, you do not throw them aside and forget them, but you return to them, if not to read them through once more, to read again and yet again the passages of exquisite description, the lively dialogues, or the quiet but perfect developments of original character, for which they must ever be held in esteem. We will not reveal the plot of "Atherton," because we hope that every one of our readers will seek it in the volumes, where they will pursue it with a pleasure not always found in the novels of our day. But we cannot help recommending to their particular notice the portraiture of Mr. Laughton, the lawyer, manifestly drawn from the life, who amidst the labours of his profession never loses his love for the country, his devotion to nature, his passion for books, his regard for humanity in all its phases. Such a character is itself a wholesome study, a practical example worth more than any amount of preaching. We recommend *Atherton*, not to novel-readers only, and to the circulating libraries, but to those who rarely indulge in fiction, to the family circle and to the home library. The other tales have already appeared in some of the periodicals, but are scarcely less worthy of preservation in the collected form.

The *Heir of Vallis* is the opposite of "Atherton" in almost every characteristic. Here all is bustling, noisy, startling, unreal, and romantic. Mr. Mathews is for ever aiming at "effects;" he is always in a pose, generally with an air of intense mystery, as if he would say "now you shall see what's coming." There is between the *Heir of Vallis* and "Atherton" precisely the difference that there is between the melodrama and the regular drama. The one appeals entirely to our passion for the mysterious and the wonderful; there is not even an endeavour to preserve consistency with nature; the villain of the piece murders to music; the great broadsword combat is fought with a due proportion of pauses, interspersed with racy dialogues; a band plays appropriate airs in woods and caverns; and young ladies, in very becoming costume for a drawing-room, come in crowds in the unlikely places. Nevertheless, spite of the unreality, even the most critical of us are charmed; we cannot choose but look and listen; and we cannot help feeling very much interested, in despite of our better judgment. So it is with the *Heir of Vallis*. It is a melodrama in three volumes, as improbable, as wild, but as exciting, as a melodrama. Critically we cannot applaud it, because it is not in good taste according to the canons of criticism. But let us confess that we have read it right through; that we could not part from it until we had reached the end; that we were interested—shall we say fascinated?—as we have been of old time at the Adelphi, when melodrama reigned there; and that now, as then, asking ourselves wherefore we were pleased, we are compelled to say we cannot tell. The *Heir of Vallis*, with all its defects, will, therefore, be more popular than many a better novel; and that argues a certain kind of ability in the author. Indeed, Mr. Mathews proves himself to be possessed of capacities for fiction which, improved by cultivation, and pruned by experience, might place him high in the ranks of contemporary novelists.

We presume that the *Heiress of Somerton* is the production of a lady, and that it is her first appearance. We guess (for we have no knowledge) the former, from the characteristic which we noticed in the last CRITIC, as belonging to the works of lady novelists—the accuracy with which they depict female characters and their very incorrect delineations of our sex; and we deduce the latter from a certain inexperience in the mechanism of a novel, but still more from the labour that has been expended in the correction and polishing of the composition—a labour which is rarely bestowed upon any future production, which is commonly sent to the press as soon as the work is done. The *Heiress of Somerton* is really a remarkable specimen of good writing, a little too wordy occa-

sionally, and with descriptions too much elaborated, but betraying none of the marks of slovenly haste that are too often found in the novels of the season, showing now little care has been bestowed upon them, as if the author were conscious that their existence would be but for the season. Commercially this may be right, but it is artistically wrong. A book that is not worth being written well, is not worth being written at all. An author should have some regard for reputation as well as for money. Besides, it is not true that novels necessarily die with the season that gives them birth. Really good novels have a long life, and may be counted upon as sources of future profit. When they have exhausted the circulating library sale, to which alone they are addressed in their first costly shape of three volumes, they find another and a larger circle of admirers in cheaper forms—in Parlor Libraries, Railway Libraries, or even in three-halfpenny numbers, to which none need be ashamed to condescend, with such examples as Bulwer, Dickens, and Warren. We cannot, of course, say that the great pains bestowed by the author of the *Heiress of Somerton*, on the composition of her work, will secure for her any such reputation as the writers we have named; but we would assure her that she has taken the right course to achieve fame—she has bestowed conscientious labour upon her task—and thus she has laid the foundation for future success, the limit of which will depend upon the earnestness with which she shall pursue the path in which she has so well begun.

Turning from the writing to the story, we cannot speak of it with the same praise. It has the common failing of all modern English novels, with few exceptions; it is wanting in ingenuity and originality of construction. Every incident is familiar to novel-readers, and the story is only a new arrangement of old materials. But this is not a defect peculiar to herself. They who have followed the remarks of the CRITIC on the new novels, as they have appeared, will remember that the same objection has been repeated almost to weariness; but, though tedious, it has been required in the honest discharge of our duty—a portion of which we take to be to endeavour, as far as our influence may extend, to raise the character of English literature in its various departments, by pointing out what are its defects, and our reasons for deeming them to be such; and in this department of fiction there has been none that has so strongly impressed itself upon us as the want of inventive power in the writers whose novels come before us for review. It is because we have a new writer here, of very great ability in all other respects, that we restate the objections, in hope that it may have some effect in stimulating to improvement in a direction where there is so much room for it, and in which it would be so easy to achieve a large and enduring fame, because it is a field in which there are few rivals.

The characters of this novel are delicately drawn, or, more correctly, developed; for they are not introduced with a description, but the reader is left to make acquaintance with them by degrees, as he follows them through the story. Mabel, the heroine, will be the favourite. It is, indeed, a delicious portraiture of a true woman, borne triumphantly through joy and sorrow, through good and ill fortune, through sickness even unto death, by the power of faith in God, and of confidence in her own good heart. Wymonde, the hero, is less real; he is too much the man of the novel, with not enough of flesh and blood; he is, in fact, an ideal man. But as we have said, the reputation of the *Heiress of Somerton* will mainly rest upon the writing, which is of a very high class and full of promise of better things to come.

Mrs. Moodie, the author of *Flora Lyndsay*, was a Miss Strickland—sister, we believe, of Agnes Strickland, the biographer of our Queens, and well known to most of our readers by a delightful narrative of her own experiences as a settler in the Backwoods of Canada. This new novel is also the product of her experiences; for, although she has chosen to take the form of fiction, there can be no doubt that she is substantially narrating facts—for what is *Flora Lyndsay*? Nothing more than the story of an emigrant—probably her own history, for it opens with a dialogue between Flora and her husband, Lieutenant Lyndsay (Mrs. Moodie's husband being Colonel Moodie), when they discuss the propriety of emigration, and resolve upon it. A series of chapters describes their arrangements, their outfit, their leave-taking visits to their friends, their last hours at home, their departure and return, wait-

ing for weather, their voyage to Edinburgh, their adventures there, their final departure from Scotland, and the Atlantic voyage. This gives occasion for the introduction of several stories of considerable interest, which occupy the greater portion of the second volume, and the work ends by reporting them safely landed on the coast of their adopted country.

Mrs. Moodie's style is particularly graphic; she brings persons and things distinctly and substantially before her readers; and that faculty gives a charm to this work, which would otherwise be deficient in interest for want of a plot and a purpose. From its somewhat discursive construction, we should suppose that it had been originally written for, if not published in, some periodical—the chapters not appearing to have a very obvious connection, and the stories being brought in with an effort, as if they did not belong to the places where they are found. But, taken individually, each chapter is extremely clever and amusing—for that, indeed, the writer's name is a pledge; and they who have enjoyed her former works will eagerly turn to this one.

Doine, or the National Songs and Legends of Roumania. By E. C. GRENVILLE MURRAY. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

Here is a capital subject, very ill used by Mr. Murray; who treats us, in the first place, to an introduction of fifty pages, not containing one sentence of distinct information on the matter in hand, and in style utterly contemptible. The *Doine* themselves—"Doine," we gather, with considerable difficulty, to be Wallack for "National Songs"—are of so much interest intrinsically, for their quaint picturesqueness, and traits of semi-barbarian manners, that even so weak and vulgar a translation as the present cannot make them wholly unreadable. These songs of Moldavia and Wallachia (provinces which are now engaging so great a share of the world's attention) show the strongest family likeness to those of their southern neighbours, the Greeks; and we may mention here that a volume of the Modern Greek Popular Songs, many of them of remarkable beauty, was some years ago collected and published by M. Fauriel, and afterwards translated into German by Wilhelm Müller. In both we have the same components of scenery and style—rugged mountains with their broods of eagles, and robbers no less savage, who are nevertheless usually spoken of with respect and admiration; raids, skirmishes, plunderings, abductions; and intermixed with these, delicate forms of fantasy that haunt the cliff and grove, and tender words of affection, deep, simple, and picturesque as in our own old ballads; and strange solemn notes of death-music. We hope that some time and soon this national minstrelsy shall find a fit introduction to the English hearth, where it well deserves a corner; meanwhile we give a specimen or two from the volume before us, which may serve to indicate to those hitherto unacquainted with it the general style of the popular poetry of these parts of Europe.

MIOIRA.

Down into a laughing valley near the Garden of Eden three shepherds descended with their flocks and herds. One was a Moldavian, another a Vrancian, and the third a Hongour. And the Hongour and the Vrancian plotted together to murder their companion the Moldavian, and inherit his flocks; for he was richer in lambs and in goats, as well as in the faithful dogs that guard them. They agreed to kill him at the soft hour of twilight.

But the little lambkin, Miora, with her silvery fleece, who had refused all food for three days, attracted the attention of her shepherd.

"My little Miora, lae boulaené! Three whole days have passed, and the sweet grass tempts thee not, and thy pretty head is bowed down sadly. Art thou ill, Miora—my pretty, gentle, little Miora?"

"Dear shepherd and master," replies the little lambkin, "take thy flocks, and go with them deep into yonder forest; take also thy trustiest hounds; for at sunset thy comrades have arranged to kill thee!"

"Little lambkin with the silver fleece," replies the shepherd, "if thou art indeed a prophetic, and I must die at sunset in this smiling valley, thou shalt tell my murderers to lay me in the ground here behind our cot; so that I may still hear the bay of my faithful dogs, and remain always with you. This is what thou shalt tell them from me. And thou shalt place above my tomb, and near to my head, my three beloved flutes: my flute which is made of the wood of the fir tree, and of which the tones are so tender; that which is made of the wood of the linden, which is passionate; and my flute of ivory, which can draw tears.

"The wind of the evening shall come and play into my flutes; it will draw plaintive sounds from them. And then my little lambs will gather round my grave, and will weep tears of blood over it.

"But thou must tell them that my companions have murdered me. Thou must tell them only that I am married; that I have wedded a beautiful queen, the betrothed of the world; that upon the day of my nuptials a star is fallen; that I had the sun and the moon to hold my chaplets, and for wedding guests the fir trees which grow upon the rock; for priests the lofty mountains; for musicians myriads of tuneful birds; the firmament for an altar; and for torches the golden stars.

"But when you shall see my poor old mother wandering through the fields, and asking of the traveller—'Who has seen my beautiful shepherd, whose figure might pass through a ring,* whose locks are gilded by the sun?' thou shalt have pity upon her, and thou shalt say that I have married the daughter of a king, and am gone into a far country."

The following wild little poem is remarkably powerful (as far as we can judge) in its original rhymes, which are given in a note, and even in this translation remains very striking:—

THE TARTAR.

"Tartar, rein in thy steed! Hold fast thy bridle, Tartar! Tartar, try not to pass the river; or, by the cross of my father there shall remain no vestige of thee or of thy steed, Tartar!"

"Tartar! where is now thy sword, and where thy gallant steed? Where is thy pride, Tartar? I warned thee not to pass the river; and now the crow is feeding on thy bosom, Tartar!"

Great pity it is that these lyrics should have found for their translator a gentleman capable of making interpolations like the following:—

"Anitza, my beloved," says the insinuating Bonjour, who seems to have been as fond of the ladies as an Irishman: (page 39.)

Elderly mothers-in-law, however, have usually no confidence in anything: (page 44.)

In the original portion of his work we find only one passage that in the least obtains our approval; but in the sentiments there expressed, at page 43 of the Introduction, we cordially concur; and here it is:—

Some of the best of the *Doine* have been collected by M. Bolentinianu, who has assisted me with much curious information. For myself, I need scarcely say, I claim no merit. . . . As to my own labours, I feel sincere diffidence, not unmingled with regret, that so enchanting and graceful a task should have fallen into such clumsy hands.

THE 24th volume of the *Library Edition of the Waverley Novels* contains "Count Robert of Paris," the last and certainly the least interesting of the author's works. Already the hand of disease was on him, and misfortune had broken his spirit; and the state of mind and body is visible in almost every page. But the collection of Scott's works would be incomplete without it, though for his fame's sake we could wish it away.

POETRY AND THE DRAMA.

The Castilian: an Historical Tragedy. In Five Acts. (Printed for private circulation.)

DEATH, alas! has broken the seal of secrecy which forbade us during the life of the author to make known to the world the existence of another tragedy from the pen to which it was indebted for "Ion"—the most purely classical drama in the English language, and which will preserve the name of TALFOURD in love and honour so long as that language shall endure. When elevated to the bench, which he adorned and dignified equally by his life and by his death, SIR THOMAS TALFOURD did not deem it necessary to divorce himself from literature. Wherefore should he, with so illustrious an example as the Lord Chief Justice of England? But he was conscious that there are malignant people and small-minded people, who would raise a prodigious cackling at the notion of a judge writing a play; and so he wisely contented himself with printing it for private circulation among his friends. The volume before us was presented to the editor of this Journal by the author, with a request that no public notice should be taken of it so long as he should live or continue his judicial office. "Yon and I," he said, "can discover no inconsistency in relieving the labours of the law by cultivating the graces of literature; nor do I feel that there is the slightest impropriety in a judge writing a drama. But there are some persons who would conscientiously differ from our views; and there are many censorious persons who would join in

* Ring: a comparison often used in Wallachia to designate a good figure.

the clamour; and I am bound to consult even public prejudices rather than my own feelings."

Scarce a twelvemonth has passed since the volume was given to us with this injunction. The beloved author of it was then in the fullest enjoyment of health and intellect. How little could it have been anticipated that before summer came again the term for which privacy was enjoined would have come to an end, and the tongue that spoke it be at rest where neither censure nor malice can reach to deprive the world of the enjoyment it will have in the perusal of this the latest effort of his genius. We know not if it is intended to publish it; but, in any event, the period for which secrecy was requested having passed, we will not longer withhold from the readers of the *CRIC* the pleasure of making some acquaintance with MR. JUSTICE TALFOURD'S posthumous tragedy, *The Castilian*.

This drama is founded, as the preface informs us, on the insurrection of the Commons of Castile against the Regency of the Cardinal Adrian, to whom the Emperor, Charles V., committed the government of his Spanish dominions during his long absence from them, in the time occupied by his visits to Germany, England, and Flanders. The author has followed very nearly the narrative of Robertson, in the third book of his "History of Charles V." The head of this insurrection was Don John de Padilla, "a soldier deeply imbued with religious faith and devotional feeling;" although leader of a rebellion, yet "essentially conservative and loyal." The narrative of the historian has also suggested the character of the heroine, in the person of the hero's wife Donna Maria Pacheco, "whose unbounded ambition was refined by an equally unbounded admiration of her husband." Another and striking incident, very artistically introduced into the drama, was the temporary resuscitation of Joanna, the mother of the Emperor, from a state of deplorable insanity, to confer for a short time upon the revolt of the Commons the grace of her title and authority. This remarkable incident is thus noticed by Robertson:

Padilla waited immediately on the Queen, and, accosting her with that profound respect she exacted from the few persons she deigned to admit into her presence, acquainted her at large with the miserable condition of her Castilian subjects under the government of her son; who, being destitute of experience himself, permitted his foreign ministers to treat them with such rigour as had obliged them to take arms in defence of the liberties of their country. The Queen, as if she had been awakened out of a lethargy, expressed great astonishment at what he said, and told him that, as she had never heard till that moment of the death of her father, or known the sufferings of her people, no blame could be imputed to her; but that now she would take care to provide a sufficient remedy; "and in the mean time," added she, "let it be your concern to do what is necessary for the public welfare." Padilla, too eager in forming a conclusion agreeable to his wishes, mistook this lucid interval of reason for a perfect return of that faculty; and, acquainting the Junta with what had happened, advised them to remove to Tordesillas and hold their meetings at that place. This was instantly done; but though Joanna received very graciously an address of the Junta, beseeching her to take on herself the government of the kingdom, and in token of her compliance admitted all the deputies to kiss her hand—though she was present at a tournament held on that occasion, and seemed highly satisfied with both these ceremonies, which were conducted with great magnificence in order to please her—she soon relapsed into her former melancholy, and could never be brought, by argument or entreaties, to sign any paper relating to the dispatch of business.

These preliminary explanations will enable the reader to follow the drama, which we now proceed to describe.

The first act opens in the gardens of the mansion of Don John de Padilla, in the neighbourhood of Toledo, where a feast is prepared to celebrate the birthday of Don John's only son. The Marquis de Mondejar and his sister, Donna Maria, wife of Don John, are expecting the return of the latter from the city, but he is detained, and they speculate upon the cause; and Maria thus powerfully describes the brooding volcano of insurrection now ready to burst into a conflagration.

MONDEJAR.

I spoke not of danger.

Hark! Is there not a rush—a shout—a murmur?

MARIA.

What is it that you fear?

MONDEJAR.

Fear? Lest the crowds

That throng the streets, with too impatient love,
May stay his passage, and before the time
Speak their desire. You smile, as if your heart,
Your high and towering heart, foreknew and hail'd
My news unspoken. 'Neath yon glistening roofs

Huge thoughts and towering passions wait the hour
When they shall rend and scatter to the winds
The feeble bonds that curb them. Bilstering shame
For nation, mighty as Castile, transfer'd
By a slight youth to alien rule, and scorn
Of his ignoble instruments, have wing'd
A people's strong conviction, which a day,
An hour, may see triumphant. Hark! There's life
In yonder streets.

MARIA.
Go on—there is no sound—
Speak on.

MONDEIAR.
No sound? It may be so, for silence
In its depth speaks; of late the healthy breath
Of daily life has stopp'd; the workman casts
His tools in restless languor down, and joins
Some cluster'd troop of idlers in the sun,
Who seek no pastime, but seem met to gaze
With wonder on each other; each surveys
The face of each, as if he read strange thoughts,
And yet they only speak of common things,
And that in hurried whispers; children stand
Perplex'd amid their toys; while mothers cleave,
With arms grown rigid, to their husbands' breasts
And eyes upturn'd, as if they strove for words
To ask the meaning of the nameless fear
That creeps along their heartstrings; but that silence
Shall break; one war-cry from a leader's lips
Will change it into thunder; but, alas!
The people want a leader.

While they are yet conversing, Padilla returns,
and is followed by Gonsalvo, who charges him
with treason, demands his sword, and his son to
be given up as a hostage. But the threatened
insult to their beloved leader is already noised
about; the citizens come to the rescue; they
snatch him from the King's minion; they place
him at their head; and Padilla, against his better
judgment, becomes the leader of a rebellion.

The second act opens before the great gate of
Toledo, where Padilla had appointed to meet
Mondeiar, whose soliloquy we extract.

No voice! no step! This spot Padilla named
When to each chief he gave his midnight charge
For daybreak meeting; and the jagged urn
Of dawn, which yon divided peaks embrace,
Is full of saffron, which bespeaks the sun
Just raised on level ocean; yet the air
Is silent, and Toledo lies entranced
As weary of brave sports. I know we triumph,
Though my dull office lay without the walls,
For the long shouts of joy that pierced the skies
Were mingled with no discords.

The low hills
Have caught the sunbeams; still I gaze alone.
Since those age-freighted hours in which I shared
Columbus' watch upon the dismal sea,
While the low murmurs of despair were hush'd
To dull submission by the solemn light
Of the great Captain's eye, as from the helm
It beam'd composite, till the world we sought
Dawn'd in its flushes ere the headland broke
The gloom to common vision,—I have felt
No vacant time so heavy as these moments
Which should be throng'd with actions.

He is joined by Tendilla and Don Pedro de
Giron, who describe the popular victory of the
preceding night, and already betrays symptoms of
jealousy on account of the popularity of Padilla.
While they are conversing he enters. Some of
the rebels join the party, and Padilla inflicts
summary punishment upon a young noble who
had stained the cause by offering violence to a
woman. They depart and leave

PADILLA (alone).
I must gather strength
To quell these swellings of indignant nature
Among those mighty images which make
A desperate venture calm. Loveliest of vales,
Spread now before my gaze in childhood's light,
Speak to me with the echoes which your rocks
Have treasured from vow'd striplings' martial steps,
While they bade frank adieu to sports and hopes
And meditated forms which death could wear
In our great Christian strife, as thoughts of lovers
Dally with shapes of joy! Castilian banners,
That flutter'd in my life's remotest dawn,
And made my childish fancy leap to valour,
Wave with such solemn grandeur as shall sweep
All meaner angers to augment one rage
August against the alien rule which blasts
The land you glorify! Let all delights
Of home, which sense of loyal faith made sweeter,
Lend their selectest symbols to oppose
The power which bids them wither at its grasp,
Or sparing makes them slavish,—and invest
My soul as with a breastplate! I am arm'd.

In the next scene Maria is drinking in with
ambitious pride the distant sounds of tumult and
shouts of victory, and already dreams of a crown,
when a deputation from the city comes to seek
him to offer him the throne of Castile. Maria
joins her entreaties to theirs, but in vain. The
whole scene is very fine.

PADILLA.
It may be true, I am blasted;
It may be, that in rising to redress
Great wrongs, we have snapp'd the holy bond of subjects;
But I will bear all shames before the spoil
Of such disaster sink with meager guilt
The rebel to the robber.

MARIA.
Husband! lord!
Before you fling the prefer'd sceptre from you
Think of the strifes its sway alone can charm,
The blessings which its touch would waken!

PADILLA. No—
The course of right is single. Such a flaw
As is created by a chief, whose place
Or circumstance leads men to fix their thoughts
Upon him with affection, when he swerves
From duty, works more mischief to earth's faith
Than the victorious recreant can atone
By years of wisest policy.

MONDEIAR.
Then perish—
He who has burst a nation's chains, must be
Its master or its victim.

PADILLA.
I am doom'd to then;
My choice is made.

MARIA.
If not for these—or me—
You think in this great moment, look on him,
Sole offspring of our love whom earth retains!
Plead for yourself, Alphonso!

VELASCO.
Noble youth,
Plead for us all!

PADILLA.
Speak your desire, my son,
As freely as to God.

ALPHONSO.
Mother, forgive me;
My heart is in my father's, and his words
Should have been mine if I had power to shape them.

PADILLA.
You hear him—through the unsullied lips of youth
Heaven's answer breathes. Well said, my noble son!
Look up, Maria!

[DONNA MARIA places her hands on PADILLA's shoulders,
and looks intently on his face.]

MARIA.
I can read the future,
Writ in the furrows of this steadfast face;
The desperate struggle—the ungrateful herd—
Sharp death and mangled story. Think again!

PADILLA.
I have thought all my life for such an hour—
I must act now. Assure me that your courage
Will quell this anguish.

MARIA.
I shall conquer it.
PADILLA.

MARIA.
Yes; if you will it you shall find
A smile on this poor face, till death shall fix
Its last in wax.

PADILLA.
That's brave! The Council waits—
Thither, my countrymen, I bear this life
For you, which had been worthless if enwreath'd
With treason's circlet; Mondeiar, come with me.

Padilla hastens to the Council-house. There
extreme measures have been already resolved
upon. The insurrection is voted, but Padilla
refuses to reap any advantage from it. Villena
and Giron proceed to plot for his betrayal.

(To be continued.)

THE third volume of *Cowper's works*, with his *Life*,
by Southey, is the new publication in Mr. Bohn's
series of the "Standard Library," and certainly it
will be one of the most popular. As yet the Letters
only have appeared; the poetry is to follow.—*Lyra
Græca* is a selection, made with much taste, of speci-
mens of the Greek Lyric Poets, from Callinus to
Soutoros, by Mr. James Donaldson. It will be very
acceptable to the scholar as a book for the tour or the
walk. A short biographical notice precedes the glean-
ings from each poet.—A little volume, that will be
very welcome to the lovers of poetry, has just been
published by Mr. Judd: *Spenser's Knight of the
Red Cross* put into modern spelling, so as to be in-
telligible to modern readers. Thousands will now
enjoy it who were repelled by an orthography which
it required some toil to comprehend.—Mr. Nicholl's
singularly cheap and yet handsome edition of the
British Poets, edited by George Gilfillan, has just
received the accession of a volume of *Cowper's works*,
which are to be completed in two vols. The editor
has prefaced it with a memoir, in which all the prin-
cipal incidents of the poet's life are narrated with his
usual power and eloquence. It is long since British
libraries have received a gathering of the British
poets in a shape so worthy of them as they will
appear in this magnificent series; and certainly there
never has been one so cheap. The cost is less than
that of the worst editions, while in typographical
beauty it rivals the best.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Works of the Right Honourable Joseph Addison.
With Notes by RICHARD HURD, D.D., Lord Bishop
of Worcester. A new edition in 4 vols. Vol. I.
London: Bohn.

MR. BOHN's new enterprise, the "British Classics,"
which promises to be the most successful of his
many ventures, has made a good beginning. It was
worthily commenced with Gibbon. Addison fol-
lows, and his works, which hitherto have been con-
fined to the libraries of the wealthy, will now be ac-
cessible even to persons of slender means. This first
volume contains Poems on several occasions; the
Dialogues on the Usefulness of Ancient Medals; and
his Remarks on several parts of Italy in the years
1701-2-3.

*The Lost Prince: Facts tending to prove the Identity of
Louis XVII. of France and the Rev. Eleazer Wil-
liams.* By JOHN H. HANSON.

HERE is a mystery to amuse the quidnuncs. Mr.
Hanson firmly believes that the Rev. E. Williams, a
missionary among the Indians of North America, is
no less a personage than Louis XVII.—that poor
little boy who was subjected to the brutality of Simon
the shoemaker, and of whose sufferings such a painful
description has been given in some recent memoirs.
The theory is that, somehow or other, he escaped
from his republican tormentors, and was taken to
America, where he forgot his high parentage and the
incidents of his childhood, and became a good mis-
sionary. The plain answer to this story is, that he
would not have forgotten events that occurred when
he was seven or eight years old. However, the book
that seeks to establish the case is a literary curiosity;
the statement of it and the evidence fill nearly 500
pages; and, merely as a memoir of the early life of the
prince and the later life of the preacher, it is extremely
interesting.

THE proposal for a decimal coinage has produced
another pamphlet by a Mr. Aslets, for *Decimalising
Weights and Measures*. If one change is adopted,
certainly it should be accompanied or followed
immediately by the other.—Apt for the time is
a volume on the *Examination of Recruits*, by Mr.
H. H. Massy, surgeon to the 4th Light Dragoons.
It is designed for the use of young medical officers,
who will doubtless avail themselves of the instructions
of experience here conveyed to them.—The Rev.
A. Dyce's *Few Notes on Shakspeare* is a contribution
to the controversy that has been kindled by the pub-
lication of Mr. Collier's emendations. They who feel
an interest in it, and desire to hear both sides, will
find that Mr. Dyce has the best of the argument in
many of his questionings of Mr. Collier's corrections.

—One Mr. A. Rees has taken some needless pains
to eviscerate what he calls *A Collection of Rare Jewels*
from the works of one William Gurnall, who flourished
in the year 1680. They are not worth the trouble
bestowed upon them. They are only paste, not
diamonds; showy, but unsound.—Mr. Crossley's
essay on *Sir Philip Sidney and the Arcadia* has been
reprinted in Chapman and Hall's "Reading for Trav-
ellers." We trust that they will introduce into
this excellent series others of the Essays of Carlyle.

They will be sure to command a permanent sale.—
Apropos of a time of war, "An Englishwoman resi-
dent at Brussels in June 1815" has produced an
extremely interesting narrative of the *Days of Battle*;
or, *Quatre Bras and Waterloo*. Readers will here
learn something of the horrors of war; at present we
are only thinking of its excitements.—To Lord
Stanley we are indebted for a pamphlet entitled *What
shall we do with our Blue Books?* in which he recom-
mends that a copy be sent to every newspaper as the
best means of securing the widest circulation of their
most useful contents. Lord Stanley is right. As
books they will not be read. The public will only
make acquaintance with them when their pith is
extracted and put into readable shape in the form of
articles and reviews.—Messrs. Black have issued an
Atlas of Australia and the Gold Regions, containing
a series of six maps, prepared from the latest and best
authorities. They are coloured, and carefully and
clearly drawn.—In a pamphlet entitled *The Knot of
To-Day, and how to Undo it*, an anonymous writer elo-
quently urges the formation of a society for Church
Revival.—Mr. T. Skaife has published an *Exposé
of the Royal Academy*. We should gather from its
tone that it was the production of one of the re-
jected. But it is not because spite moves the pen
that therefore truth is not told; the motive should
only call for caution in the acceptance of unsupported
statements. Mr. Skaife collects the evidence of others.

—The Rev. G. Jameson has treated of the *Educa-
tional Question* with much eloquence.—A pamphlet
entitled *Burnah, Letters and Papers written in 1852-3*,
is published to vindicate the memory of the late
General Godwin from the aspersions cast upon it. The
evidence succeeds in that object.—Dr. Hinds has
published a small volume on the *Harmonies of Phys-
ical Science in relation to the Higher Sentiments*. Its
object is stated to be to raise the profession of phys-
ic to a higher position and wider utility, by extending it
to moral as well as physical objects. The chapter on
the relation of Medical Science and the Profession to
the community is remarkable for the lofty tone of its
sentiments, and they are expressed very eloquently.

—Mr. V. G. M. J. Barker, in the true spirit of an
enthusiastic topographer, has written a tolerably large
volume descriptive of the *Three Days of Wensleydale,
the Valley of the Yore*. It is pervaded also by a
manifest Roman Catholic spirit. But then he is a
laborious collector of facts, and a true lover of nature.

PERIODICALS AND SERIALS.

THE general character of the periodicals of the month
partakes of that of the times—they are grave—almost
heavy. At such a moment levity is felt to be out of
place, and even *Punch* cannot be funny or frolicsome;
his wit is ponderous, his jokes are not to be laughed at.
Blackwood is full of the war and cognate topics,

escaping for only a brief and pleasant respite into the Great Desert, in company with Mr. Davis, whose travels were introduced to our readers in the last Critic; and a paper on the "Puppets of all Nations;" an amusing notice of a very amusing French book.

The *Westminster* is more than usually solemn, albeit but one paper is devoted to the topic of the day, and that rather speculative than informing. "The Results of the Census" conveys a few of the revelations made by that remarkable document, a fragment only of the many-sided picture of England in 1851. "Archbishop Whately on Christianity," "Criminal Legislation and Prison Discipline," and "Lord Campbell as a Writer of History," are ponderous papers, to be studied rather than read. Of a more readable class are "Schamyl, the Prophet Warrior of the Caucasus," a biography of extreme interest at this moment; and an essay on "De Quincey and his Works," in which an honest but kindly estimate is made, by an able and impartial critic, of a genius which has soared as high as the highest of English prose-writers, but sometimes, it must be confessed, has descended to a prosy feebleness that might well excite the scepticism of those who had not made acquaintance with him in his happier hours.

Besides the common theme, the *Dublin University Magazine* for this month pays "A concluding Visit to the Dramatic Gallery of the Garrick Club;" and readers will regret that it is the last. De Quincey is also the subject of a very elaborate paper here. "Thorns and Thistles, and their Comrades," is an amusing and instructive essay on the natural history of that wide-spread portion of the vegetable world. "Nubia and the Nile," and "British Rule in India," are the other papers, proving that the infection of dullness has spread even to Ireland.

The *Eclectic* is properly sober, for it is the organ of a very sober section of the thirty-eight Christian sects existing in this our community. But it launches into general literature, nevertheless, and with much vigour, as the papers on Douglas Jerrold, Macaulay, Austria and Hungary, and "Ticonderoga," will show.

Even *Bentley*, usually the gayest and lightest of magazines, opens with "War and its Policy," and treats of "The Future of Turkey," and "The Turkish Flag at Sinope," and "The Baltic Fleet," and "Omer

Pacha," and "The Cruise of the *Jemile*;" but these are mingled with other matters of more general interest, foremost of which we place Grace Greenwood's "Haps and Mishaps of a Tour in Europe in 1853."

The *Gentleman's Magazine*, of course, deals with the past rather than with the cloudy present and shrouded future; but even here we are presented with "Traits of the Czars," and "Comte's Philosophy." It will be read and valued, however, for its "Historical Register," and its "Obituary."

Dr. Winslow's *Journal of Psychological Medicine and Mental Pathology* has no connection with the passing events of the day. It is devoted to a theme that is for all times and countries, and which, whether in war or peace, ought to occupy the thoughts of the reflective portion of the community. The revival of war, spite of what the world had been wont to call the progress of civilisation and the spread of Christianity, marks the slightness of the barrier that even yet separates the civilised from the savage, and indicates how small a change in external circumstances would suffice to restore us to barbarism. In this periodical is discussed the physiology of the mind, and especially its aspects when diseased. The first paper, "On some of the Latent Causes of Insanity," throws considerable light on a malady which is only now beginning to be understood; other steps in the same direction are an essay "On the Weight and Specific Gravity of the Brain in Insanity," and Dr. Winslow's lecture on the "Medical Treatment of Insanity." Of more universal interest probably will be the treatise on the "Psychology of Opium Eating;" which should be read by all who have contracted the slightest tendency to this terrible habit.

The *Archæologia Cambrensis* is a quarterly collection of Welsh antiquities, which we commend to the notice of all whom this theme interests.

Professor Johnston has produced two more parts of his admirable *Chemistry of Common Life*, wherein he treats, in a manner to be understood by everybody, however unlearned, of "The Beverages we Infuse," and "The Sweets we Extract."

Mr. J. S. Buckingham's *Coming Era of Practical Reform* is, we fear, somewhat out of date. The day of reform is past, and that of retrogression has begun.

War and reform never yet went together; and Mr. Buckingham is not likely to see the advent of the era he prophesies. Even national education fades before "the last news from the seat of war," and the approach of the tax-collector with ever-increasing demands checks the liberality of the most generous philanthropist.

The *Home Companion* is improving under its new management; but we would warn the editors against the introduction of too many continued novels.

The fourteenth number of *Orr's Circle of the Sciences* is an excellent reproduction of Euclid, with notes by Professor Young.

The *Art Journal* for April takes from the Vernon Gallery an engraving of Eastlake's "Christ lamenting over Jerusalem," and Goodall's "Summer Holiday," one of the most joyous pictures ever looked at. Steenwick is the old master selected for illustration.

The *Freemasons' Quarterly Review* must be a work of fraternal love rather than of profit. It is a collection of all manner of masonic news, and it sometimes wanders out of the limits of the craft into general literature.

The second part of the new series of *Chambers's Journal* is not, upon the whole, equal to its former one. There is a departure from that which gave to *Chambers's* its peculiar value above all other cheap periodicals—its solid character, the good sense and information always to be found in its pages. These are ill-exchanged for light literature, however sparkling; and we regret the introduction of a continued novel. It is not in keeping with the design. A most attractive series of papers is, however, just commenced by Mr. W. Chambers—a narrative of his tour in America.

The seventh part of Tallis's *Australia*, by R. Montgomery Martin, is designed to be a complete history of the Land of Gold, with engravings and maps; and Parts XXXVI. and XXXVII. of the *Crystal Palace* continue the very beautiful series of engravings illustrative of the gathered treasures of that temple of science and art.

The *Family Herald* maintains its popularity, its romances, its queer answers to queer questions, and its judicious gatherings of facts and philosophy.

FOREIGN LITERATURE.

THE CRITIC ABROAD.

In spite of wars and rumours of wars, the press continues to perform its diurnal, hebdomadal, and monthly duties, both at home and abroad. However agitated the world without, there is repose in the printing-house within—except, perhaps, on occasions when the mysteries are to be celebrated in convocation of a chapel. Cannon may thunder on the Danube, but the Row will not be put out of its beaten track. Prussia may vacillate and beat its muddled head against the lindens of the Charlottenburg, but Berlin publishers will still keep open shop; and next week, in spite of all eagles, double or single headed, the great Easter book-fair will be held at Leipzig. From every nook and town of Germany, the fruits of the brain, and the products of the press, that have ripened and been ushered into the world since Michaelmas last, will be exhibited there. Of these literary fruits some will be edible enough; many will resemble sour grapes, and put the children's teeth on edge; and another many will be like Jeremiah's figs, hardly fit for porcine stomachs. We do not wish to be severe on our neighbour's literary mart, however, as we perpetrate a great deal of nonsense, and shoot into the bookshops great heaps of rubbish among ourselves. Until this great fair is over, and samples reach us, we must fall back upon old stock.

We took up an anonymous work with a *taking* title-page, *Spanien seit dem Sturze Espartero's bis auf die Gegenwart* (1843. 1853), *nebst*, &c. ("Spain since the Fall of Espartero to the Present time; also, a View of the Political Development of Spain since 1808.") but have been woefully disappointed in it. Any deft and industrious individual, with pot of paste, scissors, and files of the *Times*, with its missives from "Our Own," during the years in question, might have produced a book as full of interest and information. Indeed, this is the process which the author seems to have followed, only that instead of the *Times*, the victim of his excisions would appear to be the *Augsburg Journal*. The book is just not worthless, and may be resorted to as one of reference for the period of ten years it embraces.

A thorough Orangeman (not an Irish but a Dutch) has just issued *Wilhelm der Fünfte, Prinz*

von Oranien, &c. ("William V. Prince of Orange, Hereditary Stadtholder, &c.") By W. G. F. Schenck.) This work is panegyrical, as might be expected; but it nevertheless contains many things entitling it to commendation. The sketch of the private and family life of William V. is worthy of perusal.

We observe one or two contributions towards the study of the ancient literature of Europe. Thus there has been published by August Lübben, a dictionary to that rather tedious, but still interesting old German poem, the *Nibelungen Lied*. The author is known as an industrious and pains-taking scholar, and by students of mediæval German literature his labours are duly appreciated.

Again, P. Pressel has compiled *Reimbuch zu den Nibelungen* ("Rhymebook," &c.), the value of which is not quite obvious to us. Here, however, is a work will prove most acceptable to the philologist, *Beiträge zur Geschichte der mitteldeutschen Sprache und Literatur*, von Dr. F. Pfeiffer ("Contributions to the Middle-German Language and Literature"). Unfortunately, works of this description can only be illustrated by extracts given in the original language. We must finally mention, in the same department of literature, a *Grammaire de la Langue d'Oïl, ou Grammaire des Dialectes Français aux XIIe et XIIIe, Siècles*, &c. ("Grammar of the Langued'oïl, or of the French Dialects to the 13th and 14th Centuries; followed by a Glossary, containing all the words in the ancient language found in the work") by G. F. Burguy. The object of the author is to introduce the student into this ancient language of France systematically and scientifically.

A work which will undoubtedly be referred to for the many facts it contains, but which very few will venture to read through, on account of its bulk, is the following, which has appeared in Florence—*Cronache e Storie inedite della Città di Perugia dal 1150 al 1563*, &c. ("Chronicles and Inedited Histories of the City of Perugia from 1150 to 1563; followed by several inedited documents, under the care of Francesco Bonaini, Ariodante Fabretti, and Filippo Polidori"). Chronicles of an Italian city during the period indicated cannot fail to be of great interest, and the editors appear to have spared no pains to

make their work accurate and useful. We ought to mention that these volumes form the last published portions of a work which has now been going on for several years—the *Archivio Storico Italiano* ("Italian Historical Archive.") The second volume opens with the Chronicle of Matarazzo, into which whosoever chooses to look will find some account of the great citizen family of the Baglioni, and a recital of one of those wild tragedies so characteristic of early Italian history—a family feud, with all its accessories of conspiracy, violence, daggers, and blood. Astore, one of the Baglioni, had betrothed and espoused the daughter of one of the Colonnas. At the nuptials there were great rejoicings; but there were kinsmen who looked on with malignant eyes. There was a family feast prepared for all the Baglioni—a feast of reconciliation; but there was present a Judas, dipping his sop into the same dish with the young married people. Grifonetto was the arch-enemy. Astore was reposing in bed with his young spouse, when he heard the voice of one of his kinsmen at the door of his chamber. He arose, and opened it without suspicion, when he was immediately assailed by several armed men. His wife threw herself before him, and while he was searching for his arms he fell, pierced by poniards, exclaiming to himself, "Poor Astore, you finish like a coward!" His corpse was cast into the street. The father of Astore, an old man, defended himself from the assassins bravely. His other son, Gismondo, was killed before he could get out of bed. Other members of the family fell before the ruffians in cold blood. The widow of Astore had been slightly wounded. Covered with her own and her husband's blood, she quitted the palace where she had received such strange hospitality, and found an asylum in a convent. The conspirators in vain endeavoured to enlist the approval of the citizens. The Baglioni were regarded as proud men, but they were not detested as tyrants. There is, then, the episode of one Atalante, the widow of one of the Baglioni, whose grief at this massacre the old chronicler sets forth with unadorned pathos. She was the mother of the arch-ruffian Grifonetto. It was for this lady, Atalante of Perugia, that Raphael, who visited this city in 1505,

executed the cartoon of the descent from the cross which is now in the Borghese Gallery. We have indicated a mine of historical wealth to those who are willing and able to dig for themselves.

The French Asiatic Society are doing good service, in the aid they afford to the Orientalist to reproduce some of the more interesting authors of the East. Defrémery and Dr. Sanguinetti have recently edited, and have given a translation of the works of Ibn Batoutah—*Voyages d'Ibn Batoutah*—one of the most enterprising travellers of the Middle Ages. The first volume only has yet appeared. At the age of two-and-twenty Ibn Batoutah quitted his native town, Tangiers; and it was eight-and-twenty years before he returned to it again. In the interim he traversed Barbary, Egypt, Asia-Minor, Southern Russia, Syria, Persia, Arabia, India, China, and Spain. He visited also the famous capital of the Soudan, Timbuctoo. He died in 1378. It is very provoking that this Ibn Batoutah travelled about without eyes in his head. He saw in truth physically, and yet had no speculation in his eye. We have no minute details, or long-winded descriptions. Everything he sees is *grand, sublime, magnificent*, and the like—all is vague except his description of Mecca, which, as a good follower of Islam, he describes very minutely.

Having ventured so far into the East, we may mention, in general terms, the contents of a paper read by M. Garcin de Tassy before the Academy of Inscriptions of the French Institute, on the Names and Titles of Mussulmans. This paper has its interest at the present moment in one respect, seeing that all Christians who may enter the service of the Porte have to adopt a Mahomedan name; and hence we lose sight of our ingenious friend Jean-Jacques in Osman Pacha, and our no less ingenious and esteemed friend John Jones, civil engineer, in Reschid Bey. There are then *alam*, or proper names; *kunyat*, or surnames; sobriquets, or titles of honour, called *lacab* and *khitab*. Names of relation are *nisbat*; of functions, *mansab*; and poetical surnames, *takhallus*. The first-mentioned class of names is our prenomen. For this purpose are employed the names of the prophets, of the patriarchs, and saints of the Old Testament. The second class is composed of surnames, composed generally of the words *Abu*, father, or *Ibn*, son, and a proper name, as *Abu-Yacub*, father of Jacob; *Ibn-Yacub*, son of Jacob. The sobriquets, or nick-names, *lacab*, are often also titles of honour. They are usually composed of two words, the last of which is usually *din*, religion; *dunlap*, empire; *mulk*, kingdom; *islâm*, Mahomedanism; as *Mur-uddin*, the light of religion; *Schujja-uddanlat*, the strength of empire; *Jalil-ul-mulk*, the splendour of the kingdom; *Saif-ul-Islâm*, the sword of Islam. Relative surnames indicate origin, quality, school, tribe, &c. Such names are *Fatimi*, descendants of Fatima; *Misri*, of the Egyptians; *Maliki*, of the school of Malik. M. Garcin de Tassy then entered upon the subject of poetical surnames. To know something on this subject would save the general reader from falling into the blunder of the present writer, who, having occasion to ask a respectable Indian Mahomedan respecting his name, prefaced his inquiry very innocently thus: "Please, Sir, to give me your Christian name and surname?"

We have seen some anecdotes respecting Henry Duke of Guise, extracted from a hitherto inedited manuscript in the Imperial Library. Henry, it will be recollected, was assassinated at Blois, on the 23rd December, 1588. *Ex gr.*

M. de Guise was so cunning, that he *gammoned* (beffloit) all with whom he had to deal, having divers kinds of secrets which he confided to some and not to others, to get them to engage in his interests, every one of whom fancied himself in possession of the full secret. To some he said that he intended to make the Cardinal de Bourbon king; to others he said other things.

None of the anecdotes are very striking, unless taken in connection with the known character of the Duke and the events of his day.

In the *Bulletin de la Société de Géographie* for December last, which we have only just chanced to see, there is an interesting paper, entitled *Fragment d'un Voyage du Pérou au Brésil*, &c., par M. de Saint Cricq ("Fragment of a Journey from Peru to the Brasils, by the rivers Ucayali and Amazon.") We find here an interesting account of the Conibo Indians. In numbers they do not appear to be more than between two and three thousand. They reside on the lofty hills

on the left bank of the Ucayali. In height they are about four feet (1 metre 60 lines). In shape they are clumsy, thick-chested, round-faced with projecting cheek-bones. The eyes are small, oblique, somewhat distant; the cornea is yellowish, the pupil tobacco-coloured. The nose is short and flattened, enlarged at the base; the lips are blubber-like and parted, and between them are seen the well-set but yellow teeth, and gums black as ebony, tinged with the herb *yanamuca*. We read of the Conibo women that they are small, ungraceful, but sufficiently plump, and have not the balloon belly and slim members which, for the most part, characterise the female autochthones of the Ucayali. They go naked, in spite of the war of extermination directed against them by the Mosquitoes, and only their loins are covered by a strip of brown cloth. Their hair is cut to a level with the eye-lashes, which obliges them to throw back their heads when they wish to look at anything above the height of the eyes. We read farther, that among these savages coquetry is the appanage of the males alone. They are mighty dandies, and spend hours and hours in the cares of the toilet. Altogether, the account given of these people, of their habits, manners, occupations, and dwellings, is extremely interesting.

TURKEY.

OMAR PASHA.

Esterreichisches Militär Zeitung. ("Austrian Military Journal.") Vienna.

Reise nach Constantinopel. ("A Journey to Constantinople.") By ADOLPHE VON BACH.

OMAR PASHA, Marshal and Commander-in-Chief of the Ottoman army, is about fifty-one or fifty-two years of age, tall, and of soldier-like bearing, with bright eyes and an intelligent countenance, his dark hair already strewed with grey. Elevated to the rank of Mushir for services rendered not alone in the military, but political reconstruction of the Ottoman empire, his biography for the last twenty years is the history of an epoch, so important, so fraught with philosophical lessons and crowded with events, that our brief sketch will scarcely indicate the most striking points.

When the late Sultan Mahmoud commenced the task which has been called reform, but which, in effect, constituted one of the most wonderful revolutions ever witnessed in any age or nation, the Ottoman empire presented the spectacle of a vast empire, in which numerous races, under a common and oppressive yoke, preserved their national character, their local customs, their ancient religion, their traditions and their hopes; but in which the principle of local self-government, admitted in the creed and practice of the conquerors, had been overlaid by the abuse of local authority. The Dere Beys in Asia Minor commanded their swarms of ready vassals, and paid the Padishah scarcely a nominal submission; hereditary chieftains ruled in Albania; in Egypt the Mamelukes had regained their old ascendancy; while the head of the oriental aristocracy, the order of the Janissaries, reigned over the Sultan at Constantinople, and defied him in his distant provinces.

In Europe and in the East we hear of the separation of the Turks into two parties, the supporters of the old Islamism and the innovators, who, in their haste to practise foreign lessons, demolish even to the foundation of the ancient fabric. Old abuses are frequently confounded with original principles, as if the withered leaf of autumn derived sap from the tree's root, or as if its fall could prevent the foliage of another spring. The terrible conflict of the reforming Sultans was with an army of unjust privileges, oppressive to the mass of the people, fatal to the central authority, and in absolute contradiction to the spirit of Mussulman law. When the Wahabites, the reforming tribe which aroused Arabia and took possession of the holy cities, assertors of the Koran's primitive simplicity, destroyed the ornamental tombs of saints, and even the structures sacred to the Prophet's memory, they were denounced as infidels by the affrighted Turks; the Wahabites in return declared war against an unbelieving race, who offered idolatrous homage at the sepulchres of the dead, who violated the precepts of the law, smoked tobacco, wore silk in their dresses, and lived in pomp and luxury. Supposing themselves to be the discoverers of Mahomet's religion, they attempted to teach the Turks their own catechism, and desisted only when they perceived those infidels

were acquainted with its contents. Thus the usurping powers which the Sultans sought to overthrow were but the corruptions of Islamism, and not Islamism itself.

The religion of Mahomet was not, like the dominant religions of European countries, a spiritual code adopted by the State—a separate part, acknowledged as superior, received into alliance or placed under subjection. It was the primary element of social and political existence. Islamism was the State, the life of the body; and the member of that body who renounced the faith, renounced his part in the state, and his allegiance to it. Considered in this point of view, and simply as a legal institution, there is a vast and sublime grandeur in the idea conceived by the contemplative Arabian amidst the ruins of crumbling empires—the idea of uniting in one bond all the people of the earth. Rome never conceived a scheme so universal or so profound; the barriers raised by mankind against each other—divisions of race, of nationality, language, rank, condition—were effaced in the great system which recognised as one family the worshippers of one God. The summons to prayer, which echoes from the Turkish minarets five times a day, is addressed to all the world. The slave, the alien, the fugitive, the citizen of another country, or the wretch destitute of a home on earth, may respond to the summons, obtain admission to that state, and become eligible to fill the highest offices. European Turkey contains at the present moment between three and four million professors of the Muslim creed; but of these scarcely more than one million belong to the Ottoman race. The Mahomedan population of the empire amounts to upwards of 20,000,000, including about 11,000,000 Osmanlis. When Rome ceased to be powerful, she admitted the subjects of her conquered provinces to the privilege of citizenship; in the time of her glory she crowned the warrior with laurels, and degraded labour with the badge of slavery. The conquering Ottomans and Arabians welcomed as brothers whoever submitted to their law; but the brightest leaf on their prophet's brow is the fact that he exalted labour, took the ban from servitude, and rescued the slave from civil death. "Accept Islamism," said the Caliph Omar to his favourite slave, "and I will promote you to honour." The man refused. "Go then," replied the sternest of proselytisers, "I have nothing to bestow; go, be free."

The Christians, therefore, who passed under the Mussulman yoke, declined to become a part of the community by retaining their own nationality, their own customs, and their own religion. Henceforth they were tributaries, guarded against as persons inimical to the state. Oppressions resulted from the circumstances of the case; but they arose less from the system than from abuses in its administration. Persecution, such as we understand it in the West, was not practised by the Ottoman rulers; and their land was a rest and a refuge when liberty of conscience had no place in Europe.

Islamism did not persecute. It offered worldly advantages, and regarded as inferiors those who resisted the temptation; yet masses from the warlike people of the East did rally under the Prophet's banner. The Albanians hesitated long; but turned at length, and contributed to the Porte some of her best soldiers. Tribes in Bulgaria embraced the faith, and made terms with the Sultan. Bosnia, Serbia, and the neighbouring provinces, furnished converts to Mahomedanism; and in the twelfth century an Italian prelate predicted that, in ten years from the time of his visit, Christianity would be extinguished in Albania and Serbia.

The majority of Turkey's Christian subjects belong to the Slavonian people, who preserve, with their religion, their nationality—the memory and the hope of independence. For years the intrigues of Russia have scattered seeds of revolt; nor were plausible motives wanting. In these provinces the Janissaries, the aristocracy grown from the privileges attached to the profession of Islam—the Spahis and Beys, often of the same race, speaking the same language, and conforming even to the national customs of the people they oppressed, but elevated in right of their adhesion to the dominant religion—misruled and preyed upon the countries in which they were established, in open defiance the government of the Porte, rendered odious by their acts and their exactions.

The reforming Sultans therefore abolished at each advancing step, not the principles, but

the privileges of Islamism; whilst every concession granted to the Christians in their own provinces, diminished a true believer in the eyes of an infidel. These measures could not be palatable to the Turkish population; they could not completely satisfy the Christians who desired independence, who listened to the whispers of Russia, and with whom therefore the Porte had to proceed cautiously.

Numerous small states within the state are marked on the wide map of the Sultan's dominions, and everywhere a local tyranny had usurped the place of local self-government. The task which Selim III. undertook was the same France had to grapple with in her first revolution. The ministers of Louis XIV. and his successors had anticipated the work; but they muttered the old watchword of European absolutism, "after me the deluge." They did not aim openly at the representatives of feudal tyranny; but they undermined the basis of the old system, developing the resources of the third estate, and thus prepared the most cruel of civil wars, the war of classes. Selim alone arrayed himself to battle against anarchy; he perished—but from his ashes rose an avenger.

An abuse strikes deep root, and many birds of the air and beasts of the field take shelter under its branches; the reigns of the late and present Sultans of the Ottoman house have been one long struggle against a host of enemies. No sooner was insurrection quelled in one province than the smothered flame burst forth from another. The destruction of the Janissaries left a brooding discontent in every corner of the Turkish dominions; and, if also a peril removed, they were an arm cut from the Ottoman throne. With the lordship of the Spahis, the finest cavalry in Europe disappeared; and ruin was prophesied to the land which no longer re-echoed to the clashing of their brilliant spears or the prancing of their active steeds. In their stead, for all defence from foes without and foes within, Turkey could muster only levies of young inexperienced recruits constituting the Nizam. To quote from Colonel Chesney's description:

The infantry appeared in Turkish trousers, and close-fitting Russian jackets, with the red fez or Arab cap. The cavalry had Tartar saddles, French stirrups, and English sabres. The musket and bayonet of the infantry were of French or Belgian manufacture; and a French system of organisation had been recently commenced, by means of instructors brought for this purpose from various parts of Europe, without reference to anything like uniformity.

This picture was drawn in 1828, at the commencement of a war which cost Russia 300,000 men. At its close, two duties simultaneously pressed upon the government of an exhausted country—to crush the insurrectionary movements, and to reorganise the shattered means at its disposal.

In the year 1830, Kosrew Pasha, the energetic supporter of Mahmoud's reforms, who had assisted in superintending the arrangements for the war in 1828 and 1829, was recalled from Bosnia to fill the office of Seraskier. In the Pasha's household served a young renegade, a Croatian by birth. He had been carefully educated in the doctrines of the Greek United Church by his uncle, a priest of that rite, and his father, the financial administrator of the district of Ogolini, near Fiume. Theodore Latkes was scarcely twenty-one when, after seven years spent in academical studies, commenced at the school of Turm, in Croatia, he entered the Austrian army.

In 1830 Omar had reached his twenty-third year, renounced his Christian name and Austrian service; a Mussulman, yet unacquainted with the Turkish language and customs, he filled a subordinate position in Kosrew's domestic establishment. The Pasha was not slow in detecting the young adventurer's talent. He made him his adjutant, and gave him a wife—Kosrew's ward, whose father, an aga of the Janissaries, had perished some years previously. Afterwards, Omar was appointed dragoman and aide-de-camp to General Chzarnowsky, to instruct the troops in Mahomet's barracks at Constantinople. He was subsequently promoted to the rank of commanding major in the Imperial Guard, and Kosrew recommended to the Sultan's notice the talent of the new *him-bashi*, thus discovered and drawn from obscurity. From that period the harmony between the Protector and the Protected appears to have met with interruption. Omar wearied of the listless life of the seraglio; his patron rejected his claim to the grade of

colonel; and he requested and obtained permission to retire. The time, however, was ill chosen, and Sultan Mahmoud personally interfered.

Omar was sent as colonel (*mirlaya*) to suppress an insurrection in Bosnia. The death of Mahmoud deprived him of a powerful friend, but did not long check the progress of his career. His conduct in Syria procured him the notice of Abdul Medjid, and the rank of brigadier-general.

The close of the Egyptian war left its results in western Syria, and Lebanon was the scene of fresh disturbances. The Emir Beshir, notorious for his vices and his crimes, by turns a Christian, Muslim, and a Druse, had defected to the cause of Ibrahim Pasha. His tardy submission failed to satisfy the Porte; and the delinquent Prince of the Mountain escaped to Malta, leaving his subjects destitute of a chief.

The Emir Beshir was descended from an ancient Arab family, the Shehabs, who for two centuries, paying tribute to the Porte, had ruled independently the interior of the Mountain district. In order to conciliate the sympathies of the Maronites, a Christian population outnumbering the Druses, the Shehabs, on their accession, had embraced Christianity, as members of the semi-sects in Turkey can do, without violating their conscience or interfering with their previous creed.

The flight of Emir Beshir renewed the old contentions between the Maronites and Druses. The latter despised the authority of the Emir's nephew and of the Shehab family. A civil war ensued, and the Maronites, losing ground against the better organised minority, appealed to the Porte.

The confusion in Lebanon was complicated by the interference of the Five Powers. Eager to obtain or to repel a rival influence, they rendered nugatory the desire of the Porte to calm the animosity of the two hostile parties, by appointing over both a Turkish ruler.

Omar Pasha accompanied Mustapha Nuri Pasha in his mission to restore order, and was established provisionally as governor of Lebanon; but the Maronites protested against the arrangement, demanded the re-establishment of the Shehabs, and dispatched to the representatives of the Five Powers a copy of their petition to that effect, addressed to the Turkish government. The Powers constituted themselves plaintiffs and judges in the cause; obliged the Porte to depute a special commission of inquiry into the proceedings of the Pashas Mustapha and Omar; they relied, however, not on the report of the commission, but the complaints of the Maronites, communicated through other channels, accusing Omar Pasha of excessive cruelty towards the Christian population, and partiality towards the Druses.

A perpetual conflict has existed for centuries between the Maronites and Druses; they have united occasionally to hunt a rival sect from the mountain—brief passages of amity. The intervention of the Five powers presented a favourable occasion for the Maronites to hope the utter subjugation of their hereditary foes, while it embittered the animosity of the Druses. Omar had to defend the interests of his government, menaced by foreign influence no less than home convulsion; he strove to win the confidence and to appease the Druses. Justice and policy dictated the plain course, for this ancient and singular tribe* possessed also their right to live: their violence defeated his efforts, and forced him to adopt severer measures.

Reduced to an oriental expedient, he invited the sheikhs, and at a banquet arrested eight principal inciters of the attacks against the Maronites. The Porte at length yielded to the repeated instances of the foreign Powers. Druses and Maronites each elected a separate chieftain, and laid the foundation for new disputes relative to districts occupied indiscriminately by the two races.

Whilst the foreign Powers were engaged in complicating the question at Lebanon, in 1843, the introduction of new laws for raising levies occasioned an outbreak in Albania. Omar Pasha was recalled from Lebanon, and intrusted to take command of the army destined to oppose an insurrection which daily assumed a more formidable aspect, and extended from the mountains of Roumelia, even as far as Bulgaria. The

insurgents massacred, plundered, burnt, and destroyed wherever they appeared; and Christians were the especial victims of their fury, rather increased than daunted by the sight of the first troops ordered against them. Omar vanquished the Albanians at Caplanly, Kalkandelen, and Prishtina, and returned from the subdued province accompanied by the Albanian contingent of recruits.

In 1847 Upper Albania furnished new troubles; but prompt and energetic means dispersed them soon. A revolt of the wild Kurds threatened more important consequences; and on this field Omar Pasha again rendered efficient service.

(To be continued.)

ITALY.

(FROM OUR ITALIAN CORRESPONDENT.)

(Continued from p. 190.)

A LATELY-PUBLISHED decree of the Index includes, among other prohibited works, in French and Italian, the "Theological Essays" of Mr. Denison Maurice. It is not frequently that English publications appear in this list; and though the theory of ecclesiastical censorship is severe, its enforcement in Rome is tempered by modifications. Permission to read prohibited books, which is necessary for those desiring freely to avail themselves of public libraries, is easily obtained by application to proper authority and statement of a legitimate object in view, the petitioner receiving a formula in Latin, in the name of the Pontiff and the Inquisition, at the expense, for expedition fees, of about tenpence.

The Ministry of Finance has given to the public a report of commercial statistics in this country during the year 1852 (similar to the reports for two preceding years); and spite of censorship, ecclesiastical and civil, it appears that the book trade had been actually improving in the Papal States throughout the interval between '50 and '52. For the first of those years the importations amounted to 38,806*l.* 3*s.* (in British money); in '51 to 10,000*scudi* (or 2000*l.*) higher; in '52 they were represented by about the value of 45,255*l.* 16*s.*; while the exportations for that year were 26,449*l.* 2*s.* in value. A great variety of book auctions, the collections of deceased prelates for the most part, have been announced here this winter; and for the purchase of old or rare works these often afford precious opportunity. The most important sale now in progress, of this description, brings to the hammer the library of the late Cardinal Brignole, the catalogue to only the first of two divisions for which extends over twenty-two days of business, with an average of from 100 to 114 works to be disposed of on each. The collection is by no means exclusively theological, but includes the lighter literature of most European languages.

About three weeks since was held, in the principal hall of the Laprigna University, a joint reunion of two renowned Academies, the Roman Archaeological and the Artistic one of St. Luke, when Cardinal Wiseman read a discourse in Italian, composed with classic correctness, after a few prefatory remarks from Visconti (secretary of the Archaeologists). The Cardinal glanced at the general history of Christian Art, but particularly dwelling on its phases in Rome, on the influences of the *renaissance*, and the revival of study and taste owing to the discovery of buried treasures in classic sculpture. The characteristics of the Beato Angelico, Michel Angelo, and Raphael he defined in a manner evincing familiarity with his subject and cultivated appreciation. The late manifestations of a return to more religious feeling and higher range of subjects in art he referred to with encomiums, and particularised the churches, with their fresco decorations, at Munich, those lately brought to completion of St. Vincent de Paul at Paris, and St. Apollinaris on the Rhine. Finally, he invoked the sympathies and co-operation of Rome, which city, he affirmed, instead of following, ought to lead in the career to sublime attainments under the inspiration of faith and piety, as she had, in former times, been the guide and example to Europe. Before concluding, he recapitulated all that had been effected here of note, for the interests of art and antiquity, under Pius IX. His audience was large, comprising much of the ecclesiastico-aristocratic element, and numerous academicians of the associations convening.

At a late reunion of the "Arcadians," the Abate Matranga read a paper on the friendship between Petrarch and a cotemporary poet known as Tommaso di Messina, illustrating his theme by a yet imitated treasure, a MS. sonnet of Petrarch, produced from a code of the Vatican, where (strange to say!) it had hitherto escaped the attention of those empowered to transcribe or publish. Matranga cited it, together with the sonnet by Tommaso, also original, which had elicited poetic response from Laura's lover; and to his passion for her both effusions relate. Neither of them struck me as possessing greater beauties than those of felicitous expression, with a certain quaint simplicity. The indefatigable Abate tells me he read through all the poems of Petrarch, expressly to identify the peculiarities of phrase and metaphor in these fourteen lines, by collation with undisputed originals. Orioli

* Lady Hester Stanhope was fascinated by the doctrine of the Druses. She kept always ready in her stable the horse, whose natural saddle, formed by folds of the skin, announced its destiny to carry the expected Messiah, whom she intended to accompany in his triumph. At her death the celebrated steed was consigned to one of the chief Druses.

read an essay yesterday, at another meeting of the Archæologists, on the Primæval Antiquities of Rome; and the intellectual energy of this learned man, notwithstanding his years and infirmities, I am glad to observe remains undiminished.

Dr. Emil Braun has two works in hand, both within the province where his erudition and taste appear to best advantage, both to be illustrated by outline engravings—the "Ruins and Museums of Rome" (*Die Ruinen und Museen Rom*), to treat of all the antiquities in architecture and classics in sculpture here; and an "Introduction to the Mythology of Art," in a large volume, illustrated from the Pompeian frescoes, vases, and other antiques. The former it is his intention to publish both in English and German.

Cornelius, who is still labouring here, has received from the Pope the decoration of the "Ordo Pianus," founded and called after himself. The Commission of Sacred Archæology has been invested, by desire of his Holiness, as announced by the Cardinal Vicar, with authority to inspect all such restorations and

embellishments of churches, interior or exterior, as are now in progress, and, if deemed expedient, to alter the plans adopted. It is at the same time signified that no such undertakings, with respect to any Christian monuments, ancient or modern, are henceforth to be effected without submitting plans to the Commissioners, and receiving their approval. This is one of the best steps yet accomplished to give efficiency to the influences of that body.

The studio of Tadolini, where the colossal equestrian statue of Bolivar is in preparation, for Lima, was lately honoured by an unexpected visit from the Pope. Gibson has received a commission from the Duke of Wellington for a duplicate of his tinted (I can hardly say painted) statue of Venus, with every detail of colour and gilding. He is now engaged on a colossal figure of Justice for the monument to the Queen in our senate-house—the figure erect, with a sword and scales, has a severe majesty suitable to the embodiment of an abstract principle. An original ornament is introduced in the head-dress, a medallion, in the

centre of a fillet, with the image of Truth holding a mirror; this being copied from the Egyptian type not unfrequently found.

An enthusiastic admirer of Cardinal Mai has commissioned Benzoni to execute a monument to him (though yet living) in St. Anastasia, near the Palatine, the church of which he is Titular. The clay is just finished, or to be so very soon, representing the learned Cardinal in the stately robes of his order, kneeling on a sarcophagus or urn, richly moulded in the style of the fifteenth century, and offering his works—a pile of volumes laid before him—as the tribute of intellect to the Donor of all good; in a bas relief above the Redeemer appearing, with outspread arms, to accept and bless the sacrifice. The likeness of the Cardinal is excellent, and the conception of the whole seems to me both religious and poetical. An uncommon example of modesty, no less than munificence, is given by the commissioning party (an Italian gentleman), in forbidding that his name should ever be revealed by the sculptor.

SCIENCE, ART, MUSIC, THE DRAMA, &c.

SCIENCE AND INVENTIONS.

SCIENTIFIC SUMMARY. PHYSICS.

ELECTRICAL INDUCTION.—Science and art mutually aid and advance each other when their respective powers are wielded by men of capacity. The one unveils to the other truths capable of universal application, whilst the latter repays the debt by placing at the disposal of her elder sister means and appliances for verifying her present knowledge by the severest tests, and for further discoveries and conquests in the regions of the unknown.

Thus, the adaptation of electricity to effect communication between distant places, now known as the electric telegraph, has placed in the hands of the philosopher, instruments far too vast and costly ever to have been constructed for the sole sake of science, and enables him to work on a scale of a magnitude by no means inconsiderable, even when compared with the earth itself; a wire 1500 miles in length would stretch over no small area of the surface of the globe.

Professor Faraday, in an account of some experiments made with the wires, &c. of the Electric Telegraph Company, gracefully acknowledges the advantage he has derived from the use of their apparatus, as well as from the facts laid before him by the managers of that company, and also of the Gutta Percha Works. He also directs our attention to the value of these data, as affording some remarkable illustrations of various fundamental principles of electricity, and confirming the view advocated by him some sixteen years ago, of the mutually dependent nature of electrical induction, conduction, and insulation.

The copper telegraph wire now used is usually in half-mile lengths, of one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter, which when covered with gutta percha is increased to about a quarter of an inch. Of these half-mile lengths, 200, in coils, were suspended around barges, so that they were perfectly immersed in water, excepting the extremities, which were twisted and soldered together, thus making one length of 100 miles of wire, the perfection of the insulation of which was the subject of the first experiment. In this testing, an insulated copper and zinc voltaic battery, excited by dilute sulphuric acid, had one end connected with the earth and the other, through a galvanometer, with either end of the submerged 100 miles of wire. By this arrangement, whatever electricity passed through the gutta percha to the water would be shown by the galvanometer, which was one of considerable delicacy; and yet so perfect was the insulation, that the deflection did not amount to more than 5 degrees. This submerged wire could be charged by an insulated battery of 360 pairs of plates (4 by 3 inches); so that, when properly arranged, a single charge of the wire could be divided, by quick tapping touches of the wire, into as many as forty sensible shocks. If time were permitted to elapse between the charge and discharge of the wire, the force of the shock was less; but it could be perceived even after the expiration of three or four minutes. The shock resembled that from a voltaic rather than that from a Leyden battery.

This charging of the wire by contact with the voltaic battery is susceptible of several other proofs. Thus, the wire would ignite a Statham's fuse, and even half-a-dozen in succession, after separation from the battery. After being in contact with and then again disjoined from the battery, it affected a galvanometer very powerfully, and even caused sensible deflection in this instrument after the expiration of twenty to thirty minutes subsequent to contact. The evident rush of electricity into the wire when the insulated galvanometer was connected with the end of the submerged wire, and the pole of the battery

brought into contact with the free extremity of the instrument, was most instructive; yet, when the rush was over and the wire fully charged, the deflection of the galvanometer was very slight, even with continuance of contact of the battery, so perfect was the insulation of the wire. When these conditions were reversed, it was just as striking to observe the rushing of the electricity out of the wire, as evidenced by the reversed action of the magnet of the galvanometer.

When, however, instead of 100 miles of submerged wire, the same length was experimented on when lying on the floor of a dry warehouse, i.e. in an atmospheric instead of a water medium, none of these remarkable effects was produced; and yet the wire in the air was equally well and even better insulated than the water wire, and was an equally good conductor. Whence then arises these widely different results? It is evident, on consideration, that with the water-wire, so perfect is the workmanship, we have a Leyden arrangement on a vast scale; the copper wire is charged with static electricity from the battery, and this, by induction through the gutta percha coating, produces an opposite electrical condition on that surface of the water which is in contact with the gutta percha, which film of water forms the outer coating of this singular arrangement; an arrangement, one moment's consideration of which shows us to be precisely similar to that of the Leyden phial.

But, instead of a few dozen square feet, which is the extreme amount of even a large Leyden battery, we have here about 8300 square feet of copper wire, and a surface of some four times the amount, or 33,000 square feet of the outer coating of water; surfaces capable of imbibing a quantity of electricity so enormous, as to impart to the charged wire the properties of a voltaic current, and thus affording results hitherto unapproached by our best and largest common electrical machines.

When, however, we have to do with the wire in air, none of these effects are attainable, and this because one of the elements, viz. the outer coating corresponding to the water, is wanting, and consequently the inner wire cannot become charged; for it must be remembered, that, unless an opposite state of electrical condition could have been concurrently set up by induction, the water wire itself could not have become charged.

Professor Faraday next addressed himself to some further consequences of associated static and dynamic electrical effects. The subaqueous and subterranean telegraphic wires exhibit, of course, the same phenomena as those just detailed; the like static inductive action being brought about by the conditions under which the sunken or buried telegraphic wires are placed. Of such wires, Professor Faraday has been able to work with 1500 miles in one continuous length, with results showing that conduction through these wires is preceded by induction; that a wave of electricity, discharged into the wire, gradually travels along it at measurable intervals of time, and that the velocity of the discharge must vary with the intensity of the first urging force. So that, with sunken wires, a much longer time is required for a discharge than with wires suspended in air. In practice it turns out that the electrical wave is two seconds in passing through this 1500 miles of subterranean wire, whilst, with the same length of wire in air, the time occupied by the transit of the wave appears to be almost inappreciable.

The velocity of electricity through wires, as measured by different experimenters, varies so enormously that none of the determinations can safely be relied upon. These differences Dr. Faraday shows are attributable to such simple circumstances as the coiling of the wire on a frame, its contact with the ground, suspension in the air, &c.—all of which, and many other conditions, exercise great influence on the lateral

induction of the wire carrying the current; whilst with long circuits the electrical intensity and quantity come into play, so as still further to disturb the results, and prevent our surprise at finding Wheatstone making the wire-velocity of electricity 288,000 miles in a second, whilst one of the telegraph companies states it at 2700 miles.

Some experiments were also made with a Bain's printing telegraph, which afforded some beautiful illustrations of the conversion of an intermittent into a continuous current, as well as of the manner in which an individual current or single wave of electricity, once thrown into the wire and never ceasing to flow onward in its course, could nevertheless be affected in its intensity, in its time, and other circumstances, by its partial occupation in static induction.

GEOLOGY.

FUSING POINTS OF BODIES DEPENDENT UPON PRESSURE.—Lord Rosse alluded to the importance of some experiments of Messrs. Joule and Fairbairn on the fusion of bodies under pressure in questions of terrestrial physics, during his address to the Royal Society. The increase of temperature as we descend below the Earth's surface has long been known, and repeated observations have determined this increase to be about one degree of Fahrenheit for every 50 to 60 feet of depth. If the conducting power of the materials of the globe be assumed as equal at all depths, we arrive at the conclusion that at some 30 miles beneath the surface the temperature exceeds that of molten iron, and that at double this depth the materials of the earth, if combined as they exist at the surface, would be in a liquid state; considerations which have led many to suppose that the shell of this earth does not exceed forty or fifty miles in thickness. Such calculations are, however, founded on the assumption that the increased pressure at great depths neither alters the conducting power of the rocks, nor the temperature at which they melt; assumptions certainly to some extent incorrect, since all evidence tends to show that, as the strata become more compact at considerable depths, under increased pressure, their conductivity increases also; and it must also be borne in mind that pressure raises the fusing points of substances. In either of these cases the solid crust of the globe must be thicker than is hastily assumed from the former data, and it was with the view of throwing some light on this question that Messrs. Fairbairn and Joule undertook their experiments on the fusing points of bodies when subjected to enormous pressure. These investigations have completely borne out the hypothetical view, that an increase of temperature is requisite to effect fusion under increased pressure. Thus, in the instance of wax, it was found that by a pressure of 13,000 pounds to the square inch, its fusing point was raised 30° Fahr., and with the few other substances examined similar results were obtained; the temperature requisite to fuse the body always rising with the increase of pressure.

VITAL ELECTRICITY.

ELECTRICITY OF PLANTS.—Some readers of the CRITIC may remember a slight *résumé* of Du Bois Reymond's delicate and valuable experiments in proof of the definite direction of current force in the animal organism; and now there comes under our eye some experiments of a physicist of high reputation, Professor H. Buff, of an equally delicate and interesting nature, on the current force of vegetables. Thus we find active organisation—life, in short, be it in the highest or the lowest form in which we can regard it—bound up with, and, at any rate, accompanied by, definite antagonistic electrical conditions. In his notice on this subject, Mr. Buff alludes to some preceding experiments on plants by Pouillet, but which have been controverted by other electricians. This writer held that plants, during germination and growth, impart positive electricity to the air and negative electricity to the soil—conclusions which so readily

and pleasantly accounted for much of the electricity of the atmosphere, that, on so excellent an authority, this statement was generally accepted by physicists. However, it turns out that, as Hartmann and Becquerel suspected, M. Pouillet is quite wrong in his deductions; and now Professor Buff is enabled to lay down the following general law as one which obtains universally, with respect to the electrical condition of plants, viz.: the roots and all the interior portions of the plant filled with sap, are in a permanently negative electrical condition; whilst the moist or moistened surface of the fresh branches, leaves, flowers, and fruits are in the opposite electrical condition, being permanently positive. From this we learn that during growth a permanently active electrical state is one condition of vegetable life. The amount developed is such that M. Buff states he obtained, with a battery of twelve sappy leaves, effects equal to rather more than one-half of that manifested by a single zinc and copper element plunged into water, each uninjured leaf, with its severed end, forming as it were a galvanic element. HERMES.

ART AND ARTISTS.

SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS.

THE general impression produced by this exhibition is, that it is neither better nor worse than its predecessors. We remark the absence of Mr. Anthony, whose bold effects have of late years formed one of its principal attractions. Some very clever forest scenery, by W. W. Gosling, is nearly all that there is in the way of novelty. In No. 39, the artist has taken for his theme those old lines from a ballad of Robin Hood:

When shaws be sheene and alhads full fayre,
And leaves both large and long,
It is merrie to reste in the fayre forreste,
And heare the small bird's songe.

What inspiration is there in these old ballads, what subjects for painting would not some of them afford! The love which our fathers had for green woods and the fresh sounds and sights of nature continually shows itself in our earlier literature, and has descended in some measure to us, dwellers in cities as we are, displaying itself in the national fondness for landscape. But there is a zest in the word-painting of the old ballad-mongers, when they get upon their favourite topic of woods and shaws, which makes most modern painting seem tame by comparison. Mr. Gosling has given here the effect of sunlight piercing the thick clustering leaves in the heart of the forest; the picture has the air of being painted on the spot, and by one who has felt the charm of that which he paints. "A Lane Scene, Somerset" (536), is a study from nature by the same hand, and in a similar rough and ready style—remarkably effective on the first impression, but showing some want of attention in details. It is, perhaps, no more than a sketch. J. Wilson, jun.'s, marine views are always good. His waves have a delicious cool hue; they are not like Stanfield's or Cooke's, but still natural and true. Take, as examples, the "View off Folkestone" (28), or the "Fishing Boats off Shakspeare's Cliff, Dover" (153). Mr. A. Clint produces this year several pleasing pictures of Welsh coast scenery off Barmouth and Tremadoc. "A Calm Evening" (420), and "Sunset, seen near Tremadoc" (538) are two of the best. Mr. Tennant's "Effect after a Thunderstorm, Jersey Coast" (472), is one of the combinations of nature's kaleidoscope worth preserving. The same artist has several very successful pieces of Welsh scenery. "The Holy Mountain, Abergavenny" (373) has a Claude-like feeling about it.

J. Dearth's "Scene in North Wales" (194) hangs low down, but let the observant visitor search it out. It is remarkable for the fine breadth of shadow, and as conveying with truth one of nature's most striking aspects. Boddington's fine sultry lake scenes need no pointing out. Messrs. D. W. Deane and T. Earl have, in conjunction, produced a rather striking picture (177) of a dead or dying knight, who lies stretched on the field of battle, his two faithful dogs beside him, warning off the hungry ravens, who are all too anxious to begin their banquet. Beneath this hangs Mr. Hurleston's "Last Sigh of the Moor" (178), a tale of the Conquest of Granada. Boabdil, according to schoolbook phrase, was "a weak prince," and, instead of boldly defending to the last drop of his blood his beautiful city, he fled, and left it to the enemy. Traversing the Alpujarras, he turned round on a rocky eminence to take a last view of his lost kingdom, and gave way to his grief; for which he was reproached by the Sultana Ayxa. "You do well," said she, "to grieve as a woman for what you have failed to defend like a man." To the spot where this scene took place, and which is pointed out to this day, the Spaniard now gives the romantic title of *El ultimo Suspiro del Moro*. The Sultana Ayxa was, we rather think, Boabdil's mother; the painter, however, has represented a young woman, more likely to be his wife. Boabdil looks feeble and foolish enough; but why is he not facing in the direction of Granada? Scorn is well depicted in the countenance of the Sultana, who is pointing towards the city. According to our idea of the circumstance, the actions should have been reversed. It was Boabdil, not the strong-minded Sultana, who was for lingering over what

there was no hope of recovering. This objection apart, the picture is effectively grouped, and has more animation in it than usual. Mr. J. P. Pettitt quotes seven or eight verses from the prophet Daniel, at full length, as a comment upon the title of his picture, "The Golden Image" (227). The picture is arranged something after the manner of a chess-board, with innumerable "pieces" stuck upon it in admirable order. It looks very hot and sultry. One wishes for a blackened eclipse-glass to look at it. It is like one of Martin's pictures of Babylonian architecture, with the daylight let in. Which are the princes, which the governors, the captains, the judges, sheriffs, &c., it were useless to speculate; and as for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, the heroes of the occasion, we look in vain for them among the crowd. One cannot but ask, To what end this expenditure of time and canvass? *Cui bono?* Whom is it meant to benefit or please?

In "Othello relating his Adventures to Desdemona and her Father" (No. 201), by F. Fortt, there is care in drawing, and in colour the picture is harmonious and pleasing. Mr. C. Baxter's female heads have much sweetness of expression, and a soft and finished appearance. They contrast in this respect with the somewhat coarse treatment by Mr. Hurleston of similar subjects. A favourable specimen of the latter is his "Jewess of Barbary" (300); but the style is hardly suitable to more refined forms and more delicate complexion. A portrait of a young lady in a black hood, reading a book, and entitled "Meditation" (167), by R. Fox, deserves pointing out for the naive expression of countenance and clever treatment. It is unlikely thrust up to the very top of the wall, and deserves a much lower place, unless our eyes deceive us. Mr. Shayer's "Wayfarers' Scene in the New Forest" (455), is a trifle more animated and fresh than his compositions usually are. But the cart-horses, which he is so fond of painting, are the emblems of his style, a kind of tame jog-trot; these stereotyped productions, without altogether ceasing to please, have a drowsy monotony about them, inciting to yawn. There is little novelty either in Mr. Woolmer's paintings of this year. Though they have all titles appended to them, these might be exchanged for others with the utmost ease. They are effects of colouring, very brilliant and pretty to look at, but which will bear no description. Mr. J. Zeitter is sketchy and rough as usual, but knows how to throw in a bit of colour effectively upon a field of snow, or a bank of grey fog. There is a clever effect of light in "A Girl Knitting" (524), by E. R. Smyth; some careful study of the realities of nature in "Water-side Vegetation" (545), by W. J. Ferguson; and in a "Pheasant and Mallard" (377), by W. Ward, some painting like that of Mieris. An ancient man, seated beneath a churchyard yew, and musing over the graves of his own descendants (254), is carefully painted by R. Collinson: "Of what is the old man thinking?" The depth of sad recollection which lies in the answer to this question is well expressed. Another work of sentiment, showing no ordinary ability, is Anna E. Blundin's "Song of the Shirt" (133). It is painted with the utmost delicacy of feeling. The works of Messrs. Pyne, Salter, Pidding, Clater, Cole, Noble, and some others, speak sufficiently for themselves; and we must leave the reader, following his own tastes, to pick his way through them. Of the water-colour and sculpture room, we say no more than that we remark there a clever study of "A Peasant in Brittany" (580), in crayons, by J. Ryley.

TALK OF THE STUDIOS.

THE City statue of the late Duke of Wellington has been given to Mr. John Bell. It is to be erected in Guildhall.—An original water-colour drawing of the Crystal Palace at Sydenham as it will be, by Mr. J. D. Harding, has been exhibiting at the Gallery of Illustration, Regent-street.—The people of Birmingham, Nottingham, and the Potteries, have severally organized their schools of design into schools of art,—to be conducted on self-supporting principles.—A colossal marble statue of Mr. G. Stephenson has been placed in the waiting-hall of the Euston-square station.—An exhibition of ancient and modern sculpture, paintings, specimens in geology, mineralogy, and natural history, coins, weapons, and other antiquities, models of machinery, cabinet work, &c., has just been held at the Boston Athenaeum, Lincolnshire.—The subscription towards a fund for erecting at Manchester a memorial to the memory of Dr. Dalton, author of the Atomic Theory, have at length reached 5312*l*. Of this sum 1175*l*. is to be expended upon a bronze statue by Mr. Theed, to be placed in front of the Royal Infirmary, Manchester (near those of Peel and Wellington), and 4125*l*. in founding scholarships and prizes in the new Owens College, Manchester.—Messrs. Rose, of the Coalbrook Dale Potteries, have issued some charming Parian statuettes. ("Enone," by Shenton; several subjects from the Faery Queen (modelled by Mr. Joseph Pitts, a very promising artist); "Britomart unveiling Amoret," "The Vision of the Red Cross Knight," "Sir Calpeine rescuing Serena" (to which Hilton has done justice in the National Gallery). A pleasant graceful figure of a young girl bearing an open-mouthed bottle, is a delicate ideal of the Good Wife

in the legend of St. Keene and the Cornish Holy Well—the well which gave the privilege to the first of a married couple, who tasted its waters after the ceremony, of supremacy through life.—An iron statue of William the Second, King of Holland, has been erected at the Hague. The King wears the uniform of a General, and the hands are raised as in the attitude of addressing an audience.—The waters of the lake of Zurich have become so low that they have exposed to view the remains of some Celtic architecture, the existence of which was never suspected.—The first stone of the monument, which is to be erected by public subscription at Madrid, in honour of Senors Mendizabel, Calatrava, and Arguelles, was laid on April 1st by General Evarista San Miguel, in the cemetery of San Nicholas, where the bodies of those Progressista celebrities are interred. Senors Madoz, Lujan, Cardero, and various other political notabilities, including the editors of all the Liberal papers, were present. It is intended, if the consent of the Government be obtained, to erect a separate monument to Mendizabel, on which his statue will be placed, in the Plaza de Progreso, or some other public thoroughfare.—The King of Prussia has given an order for the erection of a monument at Erfurth, to the memory of General de Radowitz.

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS.

LOOKING to the lists of concerts, operatic and harmonic amusements of various kinds, London may fairly claim to be one of the most music-loving places in the world. The Italian Opera has commenced its season, and we are promised another opera of a mixed character at Drury Lane, in which German, Italian, and English pieces will each have a fair field; moreover, it is understood that the St. James's Theatre will be opened for French Opera. Concerts of all kinds, instrumental, vocal, and of mixed character, have become epidemic. At the Lyceum, the present week is dedicated to concerts, each of the first four nights being devoted to a great name—those of Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Mozart, and Weber. Such is the classicity at which our popular taste has arrived.

As to the Royal Italian Opera, a good commencement was made with Rossini's "Guglielmo Tell," which now, thanks not less to the admirable voice of Signor Tamberlik than to its own merits, has become a stock piece. His performance of Arnoldo is perfect, and his presence on the stage gives life and animation to the piece, which, though full of good music, labours under the disadvantage of a tedious and heavy plot. Mlle. Marai, from the operas of Vienna and St. Petersburg, as we are told, made her *début* in Matilde. She is a pleasing singer, and promises to be an acquisition in parts where a voice of the first force is not required. In "Ernani" Mlle. Bosio, assisted by the indefatigable Tamberlik, continues to give some zest to music, which, in itself, is heavy enough. Her execution is amazing, dexterous and finished to the highest degree; and for Verdi's music this is all that is required. Rossini's "Matilda de Shabran" is announced for Easter Tuesday, in which it is possible that her powers may be more severely tested. Ronconi appears not to be in so good voice as usual, at least, in the part of the King in "Ernani," he seemed frequently singing out of tune. The same part has we believe been previously allotted to a tenor, or a contralto, and now descends to a bass! It is stated that the Drury-lane company is to comprise Madam Clara Novello, Miss Louisa Pyne, and Mr. Sims Reeves. Other reports give a different account. The advertisements speak darkly and vaguely.

Among the concerts of the last fortnight have been those of the two Philharmonic Societies, at both of which the piece of the evening was Beethoven's "Symphony in F." Mendelssohn's "Lobgesang," and Mozart's "Requiem," have attracted their usual crowds to Exeter Hall. The Bach Society has made an attempt at the performance of the "Grosse Passions Musik," a task of no ordinary difficulty, and which the society accomplished in a manner highly creditable to itself, though much yet remains to be done before Bach's music is thoroughly understood. His instrumentation requires some alteration; and we should think that a modification of the score might, if judiciously made, be found of service. What has been done for Handel might be done for Bach.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC CHIT-CHAT.

THE "Kühner Männer Gesang Verein," or Cologne Choral Society, are again engaged by Mr. Mitchell for eight concerts in London, which will be commenced early next month. The success of this society last year at the Hanover-square Rooms will be remembered with pleasure; and their reappearance this season will no doubt be cordially welcomed.—The Misses Pyne, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Borran, are performing English opera in Liverpool with immense applause to crowded and fashionable houses. The local papers are enthusiastic in their commendations.—M. Meyerbeer has declined the offers made to him by the Birmingham Festival Committee to produce any work for their meeting of 1855.—A

"German and Italian Operatic Season" is to commence at Drury Lane on Monday the 17th, to terminate in September. The leading artists will be the German company who have been lately singing in Edinburgh—Madame Caradori, Herren Reichardt and Formes.—The Harmonic Union gave a grand concert at Exeter-hall, on the 6th April, under the most distinguished patronage, for the benefit of the wives and families of the soldiers ordered on foreign service.—The third season of the Musical Winter Evenings was brought to a conclusion on the 6th, with one of the best concerts given at Willis's Rooms, under the direction of Mr. Ella. The programme comprised Mozart's Quartet, in D minor, No. 2; Beethoven's sonata for pianoforte and violin, in G, op. 96; the same composer's quartet in F, No. 1, op. 18; a solo violoncello; and three vocal morceaux by Stradella, Georgigiani, and Piatti.—Madame Goldschmidt (Jenny Lind) gave her third concert on the 8th inst., at the Grand Redouten Saloon, Vienna. Upwards of 2000 persons were present. The concert went off with immense éclat.—The customary performance of Handel's sublime oratorio, "Messiah," was given on Thursday evening by the London Sacred Harmonic Society, Exeter-hall, under the direction of Mr. Surman. The solos were sung by Miss L. Pyne, Miss Dolby, Miss Messent, Miss C. Henderson, Mr. D. King, Mr. Lawler, and Mr. J. Marshall.

A great Musical Festival is to be held at Munich in the course of the early autumn.—A new opera, by the Duke of Saxe-Coburg Gotha, is in preparation, called "Chiara." Liszt is to superintend the production of it.—A letter from St. Petersburg states that the officers of the Imperial Guard gave a grand dinner to Mlle. Rachel, on the occasion of her approaching departure. One of the officers proposed as a toast—"Au revoir à Paris, où nous boirons du vin de Champagne à la santé de la grande artiste." To which Mlle. Rachel replied "C'est bien cher, Messieurs, le vin de Champagne pour des prisonniers."—Rossini has communicated to the musical journals of the Continent the copy of a letter recently addressed by him to a Hungarian nobleman, in reply to a request to write an opera specially for Hungary. He says that his determination to write no more is not to be shaken; and he intimates that his principal reason for adhering to it, is that he does not approve of the present popular taste in musical matters—a taste to which he declares he cannot and will not minister.—Mlle. Alboni has declined to appear at the Royal Italian Opera in contralto parts, she having made up her mind to hold the lead in soprano parts only.

GOSSIP OF THE LITERARY CIRCLES.

SOME months since we had the satisfaction of announcing that her Majesty, on the recommendation of Lord Aberdeen, had conferred a pension of 50*l.* a year on the widow of the author of the "Queen's Wake," commonly known as the Ettrick Shepherd; but this provision, however readily and handsomely conferred by the Queen, is clearly inadequate for the comfortable support of the lady and her family. By the death of Professor Wilson (Christopher North), his pension of 300*l.* has returned to the Crown. Might not another 50*l.* be added to Mrs. Hogg's pension? Scarcely any grant of the sort would be more popular.

The biography of the late Professor Wilson will, in all probability, be given to the world by his son-in-law, Professor Aytoun.—Mr. Albert Smith is writing a new novel, the action of which is to pass in the varied localities of London, Wolverhampton, and Ulverstone.—The relations of the brave young Frenchman, Lieut. Bellot, who perished during the last expedition in search of Sir John Franklin, are about to publish his journal with a memoir. The editor is Julien Lemur; the title of the book, *Le Voyage aux Mers Polaires* ("Voyage to the Polar Seas"). Nothing new has to be expected here; but the publication will have its individual interest.—It is rumoured that the person to whom *Blackwood*, in the March number, attributed the scurrilous biography of Benjamin Disraeli, is the Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, who during a great part of last autumn resided in the closest retirement, along with his brother, in one of the most beautiful rural parishes of Stirlingshire. *Blackwood* is thought by some to be labouring under a mistake, however; as in the second edition of the biography, issued on Saturday last, the author denies that he is a member of Parliament at all.—A weekly penny journal is about to be published in Dundee, under the name of the *Gaberlunzie, or Tale-Teller of the North*.—We learn from an American paper that Dr. Achilli has joined the Swedenborgians, and is an admired and ardent preacher of the doctrines of that sect in the United States.—The *Manchester Advertiser* is a local journal dealing more largely in literature than in cotton, as its frequent unacknowledged extracts from the *Critic* testify. It bids fair to become the most interesting and informing of the Lancashire newspapers. In the last number its editor states as follows of some Manchester literary matters:—"Mary Barton," the Manchester tale, is about to be republished in a cheap and universally accessible form, at two shillings, and will no doubt find many a purchaser in the city where

its authoress dwells. Mrs. Gaskell can well afford to content herself with her reputation as a writer of fiction, nor is it any secret in 'literary circles' that the philological notes to 'Mary Barton,' chiefly respecting the Lancashire dialect, were contributed by Mr. Gaskell. We had the pleasure on Monday, of hearing the latter gentleman deliver, at the Mechanics' Institution, the first of two lectures on the Lancashire dialect, suggested, perhaps, by the success said to have attended the similar series mentioned, but not printed in the 'Life and Remains' of the late Mr. Roby of Rochdale. Mr. Gaskell's lecturing is unaffected and pleasant in its manner, scholarly without pedantry in its matter; he reads passages in the Lancashire dialect with unction and humour; and not the least interesting feature of his lecture was his delivery of a longish extract from the account (in strong rich Lancashire) of a Rochdalean's expedition to London at the time of the Great Exhibition, written by Mr. Oliver Ormerod, of Rochdale. We thought Mr. Gaskell happy, on the whole, in his marked fondness for tracing the origin of Lancashire words, etymologically obscure, to Celtic rather than to Anglo-Saxon sources. Perhaps, on the other hand, he is too fond of including among his Lancashire words, words that are current throughout the kingdom. It is to be regretted that the course is so short a one.—"Lancashire, to its native literati, is a mine of unexhausted wealth. Its antiquities and historical traditions are worthy of a better treatment than either the Rosicrucian kind or the melodramatic style of the late Mr. Roby. Its huge industrial features moreover—the frequent beauty of its scenery—the original character of its population—the many curious traits of life and manner which, especially in more secluded districts, they display, are all but wholly undescribed. Both with regard to its present and its past, something has been achieved by Samuel Bamford;—but how much remains still to be done! We are glad, therefore, to be able to announce the approaching publication of a volume of 'Lancashire Sketches,' dealing with the historical, pictorial, industrial, and social aspects of Lancashire, from the racy, genial, and sometimes finely-glowing pen of Mr. Edwin Waugh."

It is asserted by a Paris newspaper, that the Bibliothèque Impériale in that city has just purchased the original manuscript of "The Cid" for the insignificant sum of 10*l.* If the manuscript be authentic, the seller must have had a very imperfect notion of its value.—From a postscript to the second article in the *Zoist* for the new quarter, we extract the following as another illustration of the folly of belief in this monstrous humbug of table-rapping and spiritual manifestations. The writer has been protesting against this humbug, and designated every believer in it "a blockhead." Whereupon he adds:—"We have also given examples, alas! too numerous, in our last number, of insanity produced by these ignorant fancies; and now we have to record another, in the person of a well-known authoress, who always had indulged in such superstitions, and has of course adopted all the recent spirit fancies. She has gone stark mad and stark naked on the spirit-rapping. She was found the other day in the open street as her mother bore her, except that she had a pocket handkerchief in one hand, and a card in the other. She said the spirits had informed her that if she walked out so prepared she would be invisible. She is now in a madhouse." So much for the blessings produced by this new importation from Yankee-land. The authoress alluded to is Mrs. Crowe.

The Rev. Mr. Perowne, M.A., has been appointed by the council of King's College to the new professorship in English history, and to the lectureship of modern history, without public competition.—The Senatus of the University of St. Andrews, N. B., have unanimously conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws upon the Right Hon. the Lord Justice-General, Sir John McNeill, G.C.B., and Sir Ralph Anstruther, Bart., alumni of the University.—The Rev. R. Scott, known to literature chiefly as author with Mr. Riddell of the "Greek Lexicon," has been elected to the vacant office of Master of Balliol, Oxford.—Communications from Dr. Vogel, dated "Shimotesten, November 13th, 1853," have arrived in London. Dr. Vogel and his companions had safely arrived at that place, after a difficult and dangerous march of about three weeks from Tegerry, the southernmost place of Fezzan.—Viscount Mahon will be in the chair of the Literary Fund dinner on the 3rd of May. Monckton Milnes assumes the presidential seat amongst the supporters of the General Theatrical Fund on the 10th of April.—The annual report of the directors of the Booksellers' Provident Institution, which has just been issued to the 520 members, states that during the year 18 members and 13 widows of members have received assistance from the funds to the amount of 62*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*; the sum of 82*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* was expended in stationery, advertisements, and sundry expenses. The receipts from subscriptions and donations were 452*l.* 10*s.* 3*d.*; balance from last year, 106*l.* 9*s.*; cash from invested capital, 405*l.* 14*s.* 11*d.*; leaving a balance in hand of 257*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* The amount of capital invested up to the present time is 20,904*l.*

Mr. Ewart's proposal to amend his Public Libraries Act has been rejected by the House of Commons.—At a very full meeting of the Geographical Society, Sir Roderick Murchison announced that her

Majesty's Government had granted the sum of 500*l.* per annum to enable the Society to provide itself with apartments adequate to a public exposition of its numerous charts and maps, and thus increase the usefulness of the body.—The Admiralty, without sanctioning any new expedition to search for Sir John Franklin, have determined that such orders shall be issued to Sir E. Belcher as will empower him to continue the search for the missing expedition for another year.—Colonel Rawlinson, in a letter to the *Athenæum*, dated Bagdad, Jan. 25, has communicated some further discoveries of importance in Assyrian exploration.—The President and Fellows of Magdalen College, Oxford, have made an offer to endow Lectureships in Divinity, in Moral and Natural Philosophy, for the benefit of the University at large.—A copyright treaty with England is now before the Senate of the United States. The pirating booksellers have sent a circular round with petitions against it, protesting against any special interference with their business operations in a mode so entirely subversive of all democratic principles.—The report of the Governors of the Wellington College has been published. The proposed net capital was fixed at a minimum of 100,000*l.* The gross amount of subscriptions on the list is 105,760*l.*, of which only 4500*l.* remain unpaid, besides 6500*l.*, expected to be remitted from India.—During the past quarter, the Society of Arts has received into union thirty-one Literary and Scientific Institutions and Mechanics' Institutes. The total number now in union is 348. During the same period the society has received an accession of ninety members, making the total number, irrespective of institutions, 1574. Next June the Society of Arts propose to open a special Exhibition of Educational Machinery, collecting a series of models, plans, books, diagrams, and apparatus, which shall illustrate the actual practice of school teaching in the great States of Europe and America.—Mr. Hinde has reported the appearance of a brilliant comet in the western horizon, in the constellation Pisces. Its nucleus, he says, is of a fine gold colour, about the size of a star of the first magnitude, with a tail several degrees long running off from the nucleus in a single stream, and that a mere glance at the western heavens about eight o'clock, if the sky be clear, will suffice to discover it. The Abbé Moigno, the well-known savant of Paris, has written to the editor of the *Pays* to say that this new comet was first seen in that city by a poor man who picks up a precarious livelihood by stationing himself in the Place du Carrousel with a telescope for the accommodation of workmen, soldiers, grisettes, and others of the lower orders astronomically inclined.—The Kircudbright Mechanics' Institute has made a fair start. It now numbers about 200 members, at an annual subscription of 5*s.*—The new bridge to be built at Westminster, from a design by Sir Charles Barry, is to be commenced in May. The bridge is to have three arches, the centre arch rising 18 feet from the springing. The present bridge was built in 1750, at a cost of 389,500*l.*; the new bridge will be wider than the present, and built at a less cost—at least, such is the promise.

OBITUARY.

ROUX.—Dr. Roux, the most eminent surgeon in France, at an advanced age. He leaves a name in chirurgical science second only to that of Sir Astley Cooper, and has published some important works on it.

WILSON.—On the 3rd inst. at Edinburgh, aged 68, John Wilson, late Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, and better known in the literary world as the editor of *Blackwood's Magazine*, and as "Christopher North."

RIGAUD.—At Geneva, aged 66, M. Rigaud. He played a conspicuous part in the Swiss Diet of 1838, during the contest with France concerning M. Louis Napoleon, the present Emperor of the French and Swiss citizen.

NEWPORT.—On the 7th inst. at his residence in Cambridge-street, Hyde-park, Mr. George Newport, F.R.S., the distinguished naturalist. Mr. Newport was a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons; but, in order to apply himself more fully to scientific pursuits, he had almost withdrawn from practice of late years, and a small pension from Government enabled him the better to do this—a pension conferred upon him for his attainments in natural science. He contributed several valuable papers to the "Transactions of the Royal Society" and to the "Transactions of the Linnean Society;" amongst them those "On the respiration and on the temperature of insects;" "On the reproduction of lost parts in insects and myriapoda;" "On the impregnation of the ovum in amphibia;" "On the natural history and development of the oil-beetle;" "On the formation and use of the air-sacs in insects;" "On the vapour expelled from beehives;" and "On the generation of the aphides," deserve especial notice. He was the author of the article "Insects" in the "Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology." He was a Fellow of the Royal and of the Linnean Societies, as well as of many other similar societies on the Continent and in America. He had been more than once elected president of the Entomological Society, in the originating and advancing of which he took a lively interest. Mr. Newport was not less estimable as a member of society than he was eminent as a man of science. By his death science has sustained a very great loss.

CRONSTADT.—The following description of Cronstadt, given in a Berlin journal, although incomplete, may not be uninteresting at the present moment:—"Cronstadt is situated on the island of Kosline, at the eastern corner of the Finland Gulf. The island, about 1½ English miles long and proportionately narrow, is close to the mouth of the Neva, and may be regarded as the port of St. Petersburg, whence it is distant about 18 miles (English). The town, which owes its foundation to Peter the Great, contains about 30,000 inhabitants, and is intersected by the Peter and Catherine canals. On the northern side of the island stand the powerful Alexander ramparts, constructed of solid granite blocks, and armed with heaviest guns. On the southern flank of this is the harbour, the channel to which is defended by the citadel, erected on a rocky foundation, and on the opposite side by the Kronslot fortress. Properly speaking, there exist three harbours for ships of war within the island, with docks, arsenals, building-yards, and so forth. A fourth and smaller harbour for mercantile vessels likewise exists within the defences. The old Menshikoff palace has long been converted into a foundry, arsenal, and school for pilots. The Marine Hospital is arranged for 2600 patients. In order to diminish dangers that may occur from fire, all wooden constructions have been pulled down and all superfluous stores removed."

MENTAL OVERWORK.—Southey, Moore, Wordsworth, Campbell, Coleridge, Scott, Wilson—never did a brighter galaxy of poets adorn any age. It is curious and sad to remark that in the case of almost all of these illustrious men—certainly of all of them who reached old age—the over-tasked brain more or less gave way.

JOHN KEMBLE.—John Kemble was convivial in his habits, fond of late hours, and a humorist after a peculiar fashion. But his jokes were somewhat sepulchral; and even when under the influence of Bacchus, he never relaxed from his habitual solemnity and importance of manner. When a young actor, he fancied, by a strange delusion, that he possessed the attributes of gay, dashing comedy. Tate Wilkinson tells us that he selected Plume, Doricourt, Archer, and such parts, to please himself, and not by the desire of the managers. A smile on his countenance appeared to wonder how it got there. As Croker says, in the "Familiar Epistles," it resembled the plating on a coffin. He then observed—

Young Mirabel by Kemble play'd
Look'd like Macbeth in masquerade.

and adds, in a note, "I have had the misfortune to see this exhibition; truly it was, as Shakspeare says, 'most tragical mirth.'" Reynolds tells an amusing anecdote, for which he quotes the authority of Kemble himself. In 1791, the great tragedian chose to act Charles Surface. Some time afterwards Reynolds and Kemble met at a dinner. The flattering host asserted that Charles Surface had been lost to the stage since the days of Smith, and added, that Kemble's performance of the part should be considered as Charles's Restoration. On this a less complimentary guest observed, in an under tone, that it should rather be considered as Charles's Martyrdom. Kemble overheard the remark, and said, with much good humour, "I will tell you a story about this, which proves that you are right. Some few months ago I happened to be in liquor, and quarrelled with a gentleman in the street. On the next morning, when I came to my senses, I felt that I was in the wrong, and offered to make him any reasonable reparation. 'Sir,' interrupted the gentleman, 'at once I meet your proposal, and name one—promise me never to play Charles Surface again, and I shall be perfectly satisfied.' I gave the promise, and have kept it."—*Dublin University Magazine.*

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CHARLES LEWIS GRUNSEIN, Secretary. Office, 33, Norfolk-street, Strand, April 5, 1854.

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FRAMPTON'S PILL OF HEALTH.—This excellent family pill is a medicine of long-tried efficacy, for correcting all disorders of the stomach and bowels, the common symptoms of which are costiveness, flatulency, spasms, loss of appetite, sick headache, giddiness, sense of fulness after meals, dizziness of the eyes, drowsiness, a torpid state of the liver, and a consequent inactivity of the bowels, causing a disorganization of every function of the frame. Two or three doses will convince the afflicted of its salutary effects, and renewed health will be the quick result of taking this medicine, according to the directions accompanying each box. As a pleasant, safe, easy aperient, it unites the recommendation of a mild operation with the most successful effect, and requires no restraint of diet or confinement during its use; and in those cases of constipation it will be found to be the most comfortable medicine hitherto prepared.—Sold by T. PROUT, 229, Strand, London, price 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 6d. per box, and by all vendors of medicines.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT, a sovereign remedy for the afflicted.—The number of years this invaluable Ointment has stood the test of public opinion, and the longer known the better attested, is a testimony of itself more powerful than anything that could be written in praise of the curative properties it possesses. For ringworm, scald heads, and all diseases of the skin, it is unequalled; recent tumours or old ulcers may very shortly be healed by its use. For tumours, hard breasts, scrofula, and sore legs, there is no remedy to be compared with it; and, in conjunction, as a purifier of the blood, and to effect certain cures, Holloway's Pills should be taken.—Sold by all Druggists; and at Professor HOLLOWAY'S Establishment, 244, Strand, London.

FOR VARICOSE VEINS AND WEAKNESS. SURGICAL ELASTIC STOCKINGS and KNEE-CAPS. on a New Principle, pervious, light in texture, and inexpensive, yielding an efficient and unvarying support under any temperature, without the trouble of Lacing or Bandaging. ELASTIC SUPPORTING BELTS, for both sexes, of the same beautiful fabric; those for ladies' use, before and after accouchement, are admirably adapted for giving adequate support with extreme lightness—a point little attended to in the comparatively clumsy contrivances and fabrics hitherto employed.

Instructions for Measurement, and Prices, on application, and the price sent by post from the Manufacturer, POPE and FLAHERTY, 4, Water-place, Pall-mall. The Profession, Trade, and Hospitals supplied.

RUPTURES EFFECTUALLY CURED WITHOUT A TRUSS. ALL Sufferers from this alarming Complaint are invited to consult or write to Dr. LESLIE, as he guarantees them relief in every case. His remedy has been successful in curing thousands during the last eleven years, and is applicable to every kind of Prolapse, or descent of the bowels, and to the protrusion of male or female of any age, causing no confinement or inconvenience in its use whatever. Sent post free, with full instructions for use, to any part of the world, on receipt of 7s. 6d. from the Manufacturer, POPE and FLAHERTY, 4, Water-place, Pall-mall. To be sent by post, to Dr. HERBERT LESLIE, 37, A. Manchester-street, Gray's Inn-road, London, where he may be consulted daily, Sundays excepted, from 11 till 1, and 5 till 7. Extra postage for 12 copies of the Pamphlet, which must be sent. A pamphlet sent post free for two postage-stamps.

RUPTURES.—BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT. THE MOC-MAN LEVER TRUSS is allowed by upwards of 200 Medical Gentlemen to be the most effective invention in the curative treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring (so often hurtful in its effects) is here avoided, a soft Bandage being worn round the body, while the requisite resisting power is supplied by the Moc-Man Lever, held in place by a band, fitted with so small and close a clasp that it cannot be detected, and may be worn during sleep. A descriptive circular may be had, and the Truss (which cannot fail to fit) forwarded by post, on the circumference of the body, two inches below the hips, being sent to the Manufacturer, Mr. JOHN WHITE, 228, Piccadilly, London. Price of a Single Truss, 16s., 21s., 26s. 6d., and 31s. 6d.; postage 1s. Double Truss, 31s. 6d., 42s., and 52s. 6d.; postage 1s. 8d. Post-office Orders to be made payable to JOHN WHITE, Post-office, Piccadilly.

ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE-CAPS, &c.—The material of which these are made is recommended by the Faculty as being peculiarly elastic and compressible, and the best invention for giving efficient and permanent support in all cases of weakness and swelling of the Legs, Varicose Veins, Sprains, &c. It is porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and is drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price, from 7s. 6d. to 16s.; postage, 6d. MANUFACTORY, 228, PICCADILLY, LONDON.

THE BEST FOOD FOR CHILDREN, INVALIDS, and OTHERS.—ROBINSON'S PATENT BARLEY, for making superior Barley Water in Fifteen Minutes, has not only obtained the Patronage of Her Majesty and the Royal Family, but has become of general use to every class of the community, and is acknowledged to stand unrivalled as an eminently pure, nutritious, and light food for Infants, Children, and Invalids; much approved for making a delicious Custard Pudding, and excellent for thickening Broths or Soups.

ROBINSON'S PATENT GROATS form another diet universally esteemed for making a superior Gruel in fifteen minutes. Light for supper, and alternately with the Patent Barley, an excellent food for Children and Invalids; being particularly recommended by the Faculty as the purest and best preparation of the kind extant, and far preferable to the Embroid Groats.

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Sold by all respectable Grocers, Druggists, and others in Town and Country, in Packets of 6d. and 1s., and in Family Caisnetts at 2s., 5s., and 10s. each.

EASY CHAIR (in one) BEDSTEAD.—This very portable, light, and durable piece of furniture, made of wrought iron, is convertible instantaneously from a chair to a bedstead, and vice versa, is made also to form a couch or lounge, and will be found invaluable where space and comfort is at once a question of consideration. By members of the military and naval professions, residents in chambers, and travellers, such an article has long been desiderated. Price, complete, with best hair cushions, forming also a mattress, from 22s. WILLIAM B. BURN, cabinet glasser, in adding to his already unrivalled assortment of iron and brass bedsteads, to which goods two of his extensive show rooms are exclusively devoted.

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HAMMOND'S NEW COUCH, a handsome ornament in a room; forms a full-sized bedstead for two persons, on a moment's notice; price, complete, 35s. The largest stock of Wood and Iron Bedsteads, Beds, Mattresses, and Palliasses in the Kingdom at HAMMOND'S Bedding Factories, 14, High Holborn, and 39, Bech-street, City.

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CAUTION.—To Tradesmen, Merchants, Shippers, Outfitters, &c.—Whereas it has lately come to my knowledge, that some unprincipled person or persons have, for some time past, been imposing upon the Public by selling to the Trade and others a spurious article under the name of BOND'S PERMANENT MARKING INK. This is to give Notice, that I am the Original and sole Proprietor and Manufacturer of said Article, and do not employ any Traveller or authorize any persons to represent themselves as coming from my Establishment for the purpose of selling the said Ink. This Caution is published by me to prevent further imposition upon the Public, and serious injury to myself. E. R. BOND, Sole Executor and widow of the late John Bond, 24, Long-lane, West Smithfield, London.

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IMPERIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

1, OLD BROAD-STREET, LONDON.

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SECURITY.—Those who effect Insurances with this Company are protected by its Subscribed Capital of 750,000l., of which nearly 100,000l. is invested, from the risk incurred by members of Mutual Societies.

The satisfactory financial condition of the Company, exclusive of the Subscribed and Invested Capital, will be seen by the following statement:—

On the 31st October, 1853, the sums Assured, including Bonus added, amounted to ... £2,500,000
The Premiums Paid to more than ... 800,000
And the Annual Income from the same source, to ... 100,000
Insurances, without participation in Profits, may be effected at reduced rates.

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continues to receive from individuals of every rank the most flattering testimonials of his success in describing the CHARACTERS of Persons from their HANDWRITING, pointing out their mental and moral qualities, whether good or bad.—Address, by letter, stating age, sex, and profession; including 13 recent postage-stamps, to Dr. BLENKINSOP, 344, Strand, London.

A VERITABLE REDUCTION in the TEA-DUTY.—H. SPARROW and Co. beg to announce, that their BLACK TEAS no longer are in price from 2s. 6d. to the finest imported Tea, for its general superiority and moderate price.—MORLEY and Co., 14, Little Tower-street, London.—Reduced to 4s. 4d. per lb. Sold at 27, Coventry-street, Haymarket, and by their Agents throughout the kingdom. Agents wanted (Tea-dealers only) where none are appointed.

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26, PAVEMENT, FINCHURCH, London.—Further Reduction in the Duty on Tea.—On the 6th of April there was a further reduction in the Duty on Tea. Pope and Co. have accordingly reduced all their Teas *fourpence per pound*. The following descriptions are strongly recommended as the best and most economical that can be purchased:—

	s. d.	s. d.
Best Congou Tea, reduced to 3 4 from 3 8	3	4
Best Souchong " " 4 0 " 4 4	4	0
Best Gunpowder " " 5 0 " 5 4	5	0
Best Young Hyson " " 4 4 " 4 8	4	4
Best Plantation Coffee " " 1 4	1	4
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Delivered free in London and the suburbs. Two Pounds' worth of Tea and Coffee forwarded free to all parts of England.

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IN THE POUND IN THE DUTY ON TEA.—In conformity with our usual practice of always being first to give the public the full advantage of every reduction in the value of our goods, we have at once lowered the price of our TEAS to the full rate of the reduction of 4s. of duty; and we are determined, so far as we are concerned, that the public shall reap the full benefit of this act of the Government.

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The Best Pekoe Congou	3s. 8d.
Strong Breakfast Congou	3s. 0d.
Good Sound Congou	2s. 8d.
Choice Gunpowder	4s. 4d.
Finest Young Hyson	4s. 4d.
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For the convenience of our numerous customers, we retail the finest West India and Refined Sugars at market prices. All goods delivered by our own vans, free of charge, within eight miles of London. Patrons of the Company, of the value of Two Pounds sterling, are sent, carriage free, to any part of England.

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27, SKINNER-STREET, 83, W-HILL, CITY.

DUTY OFF TEA!—All our prices reduced

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BLACK TEAS.—Strong Black Tea, 2s. 8d., 2s. 10d., 3s.; former prices, 3s., 3s. 2d., and 3s. 4d. Rich Souchong Tea, 3s. 2d., 3s. 4d., 3s. 6d.; former prices, 3s. 6d., 3s. 8d., and 4s. Best Assam Pekoe Souchong Tea, of extraordinary quality and strength, 4s.; former price, 4s. 4d.
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COFFEES.—Good Coffee, 1lb. 11d., 1s. Prime Coffee, 1s. 1d., 1s. 2d., and 1s. 3d. Rich Mocha Coffee, 1s. 4d. Rare choice old Mocha (twenty years old), 1s. 6d.
Teas, Coffees, and Spices sent carriage free to any railway station or market town in England, if to the value of 40s. or upwards. By this liberal arrangement, those residing at a distance can enjoy all the advantages of the London markets for Tea, Coffee, and Colonial produce, just as though they were residing in London. PHILLIPS and COMPANY, Tea and Colonial Merchants, No. 8, King William-street, City, London.—A general Price Current, containing great advantages in the purchase of Tea, Coffee, and Colonial Produce, sent post free on application. Sugars are supplied at Market Prices.

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PREVENTED BY RICHARD AND JOHN SLACK'S
CHEMICALLY PURIFIED NICKEL SILVER,
acknowledged to be the purest metal in existence at one-twelfth the price of Silver, made into every article for the table, as Cruet-frames, Tassets, Candlesticks, &c. Pattern. Fiddle. Pattern. Pattern.

	Table Spoons and Forks,	Per Dozen	12s. and 13s.	28s.	30s.
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Also, every article for the Table at equally low prices.
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* * * This is the neatest and cleanest Penholder made.	

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Best quality, with pocket, 6d. each.
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Best Address or Visiting Cards, packs of 50, 6d. each.
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Ebony Pen Trays, very neat, 1s. 6d. each.
French Sewing Machines, 6d. each, usually sold at 1s.
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COMPANY have introduced a plan of Assurance, whereby the following important advantages are secured by ONE POLICY:—

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